



IN THE TABLOID: FILMS

JURASSIC PARK II: LOST WORLD OR LOST PLOT?

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Purge on rifles and shotguns

EXCLUSIVE

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

A fresh drive against firearms, including tighter restrictions on the use of rifles, shotguns, and handguns, is to be launched by the Government.

The move is expected to provoke a second battle with the powerful shooting lobby, which mounted a ferocious campaign against the outlawing of revolvers and pistols, introduced as a response to the Dunblane massacre.

Among the likely Government proposals will be the introduction of an 18-year-old age limit on the use of shotguns, as well as making it harder for people to own the weapons. This would prevent young gun-users, such as Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 12, from shooting.

Other measures likely to be introduced are a licensing system for airguns, which currently are unregulated, and a ban on most rifles above the .22 calibre. The review may also consider a clampdown on replica weapons and mail-order sales.

Signalling an inevitable clash between ministers and gun enthusiasts, a shooting group denounced the possible moves against rifles and shotguns as a "disaster", which they would oppose.

The Home Office is to carry out a review of the existing firearm laws, once the ban on handguns comes into place later this year. A Government source said: "We want to look at further firearms control, such as the use of airguns and the age limits. The age limits, or lack of them, are fairly bizarre at the moment. There is also the ques-

tion of having some form of licensing for airguns, as currently there is no checking system."

The review is likely to start in about six months' time, or early next year.

"Ministers will want to know what is further needed. This will include taking evidence from the police," said the Government source.

Senior police officers have already expressed their disquiet with the licensing of shotguns.

The previous government caused a nationwide revolt among firearm users when it introduced a ban on 160,000 large

calibre handguns. Fresh anger was caused by Labour's decision to extend the ban to the remaining 40,000 less powerful revolvers.

Alun Michael, a Home Office Minister, in a letter to the Liberal Democrat MP Matthew Taylor, has provided further evidence of the Government's intention to take action against firearms.

In his letter, dated last Sunday, Mr Michael referred to an incident brought to his attention by Mr Taylor, in which a window was broken by an airgun.

Mr Michael wrote: "I agree

that this needs looking at again."

He said that no action could be taken while the current gun legislation was going through Parliament, but added: "... I can tell you that, when the handgun issue has been settled, we will look at what other firearms controls are needed to safeguard the public."

"We will examine the law on airguns as part of that exercise."

There are an estimated 200,000 licensed rifles in England and Wales, nearly 1.4m licensed shotguns and around 3 million airguns.

At present there is no minimum age for holding a shotgun certificate. The Government is likely to push for a minimum age of 18, or even 21. The licensing laws are also expected to be tightened.

To obtain a shotgun certificate, which can be used to hold an unlimited number of weapons, you need to have land or a club to fire the gun and the signature of a "respectable" person. The police can object if they have good reason, although in 1994 only 220 licence applications for all firearms were turned down.

The certificate system may be changed to the more rigorous ones used for rifles, and shotgun owners may be forced to have a separate certificate for each gun.

On the question of rifles, the Government is expected to propose an outright ban on all weapons above .22 calibre, except for use in exceptional circumstances, such as for deer stalking.

Janet George, spokeswoman of the British Field Sports Society, said her organisation would try and prevent any restrictions of shotgun or rifle control.

Brown faces up to the euro

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Gordon Brown will today open up a full-scale Treasury offensive to force the country to face up to the highly-charged question of the single European currency.

The move is bound to excite Euro-sceptic suspicion that the Government is engaged in a softening up process for early membership of the Euro - and abolition of the pound - possibly in time for the 1999 launch.

A Treasury source said last night that the government line remained firm; that while nothing was ruled out, formidable obstacles remained to first-wave British participation.

The latest date for British notification that it plans to join should be this summer, when preparatory legislation would be needed. But one government source said last night that it might be possible to ask for more "latitude" on the timetable, its firm intention to join was given by the end of the year.

In a London speech today,

the Chancellor will argue that, unlike the Tories, the new government believes the arguments for and against the Euro have to be addressed.

"Whether Britain is in or out," he will say, "Economic and Monetary Union will have profound implications for British business and the British economy."

As for the raw politics, Mr Brown believes that his call for informed debate about the single currency contrasts markedly with the dogmatically blinkered approach taken by the previous government.

The danger for the Tories is that if the debate takes off, it could reopen the deep-seated and highly-damaging divisions within the Opposition ranks.

Some Conservative front-benchers have warned William Hague that they will resign if he pushes the party line still further against Europe, although the new leader has already ruled out single currency membership, under the Tories, for the next ten years.

To help move the debate along, the Treasury will today

publish a report on Economic and Monetary Union by Lord Currie of Maylebone, Professor of Economics at the London Business School.

That will be followed through, next week, with publication of a practical Treasury guide for business on the implications of a single currency.

The Chancellor will argue today that following the Amsterdam summit, and the new spirit of co-operation that was delivered by Tony Blair, the new Government was better placed to play a constructive role in the creation of the new Euro.

Britain would be arguing that economic reform would be required: to promote investment through the European single market; to get the advantages of the single market for all financial services, like insurance; to ensure economic convergence between EU member states; to get flexibility and adaptability in employment markets; and to encourage employment growth.

Mr Brown will say European progress should be judged on the basis of those five tests.



Stable mates: Stud manager Sally O'Neill feeds a foal at the Gucci estate in West Sussex where prize-winning Arabian horses will be sold in a fortnight's time. An animal cruelty court case is pending against a former stablehand, Penny Armstrong. Seeking good home, page 3. Photograph: John Voss

Heroin novel wins children's book prize

David Lister

Children's fiction took a controversial leap into adult realism yesterday when a novel about two teenagers' descent into a life of prostitution and heroin addiction won the country's leading children's book prize.

Junk, by 43-year-old Melvin Burgess, aimed at teenagers aged 15 and over, won the Library Association's Carnegie Medal, known as the Booker of the book world.

The prize, whose shortlist also included two books about bullying and one about a violent child arsonist, is judged by a panel of 13 children's librarians.

Celebrating its 60th year, the award was first won by *Swallows and Amazons* author Arthur Ransome. Mr Burgess's book is light years away from Ransome. It tells how a pair of 14-year-old runaways slide into a nightmarish underworld of drug abuse.

At one point, one of the narrators, Gemma, describes working as a pro-



"Would you let your child read this?"

er people do - carpenters, mechanics, gardeners."

In another section, she eulogises heroin, saying: "Chasing the dragon... it's like Chinese magic... you feel like Romeo did when he finally got to bed with Juliet."

The front cover of the book is a kaleidoscope of words such as Drugs, Sex, Heroin, Anarchy, Rave.

One character, Lily, uses heroin while breast-feeding. "All the veins in her arms and behind her knees have gone where she's poked around with the needle so much, so she injects into the veins between her breasts. I've seen her sitting with the baby on the breast poking about to find a vein. 'Nice fat veins when your tits are big and milky,' she said."

In an interview with *The Independent* today, Mr Burgess tells how his late brother was a drug addict. He is indignant about criticism of the book, saying: "It is just nonsense that anyone should object to any child who is 14 or 15 reading something like this."

The book was defended by Lesley Sim, chairwoman of the Youth Libraries Group judging panel. She said: "*Junk* is an outstanding, ground-breaking book - an extraordinary mixture of social commentary and gripping drama."

But others were more critical. BBC's The Bookworm programme is conducting its own poll of the nation's favourite children's books, and has been talking to children about the Burgess book.

The programme's editor, Daisy Goodwin, said yesterday: "It is drug tourism for middle-class children. Every year now this prize goes to a book that has the goriest, socially shocking subject matter, and I'm not sure that's what children's literature should be about. The best children's books are an escape from all of that."

"The children we have been talking to are impressed with the book because it's about such a sexy subject. It's not impossible that it will win our poll, but I hope it doesn't. Would you want your child to read *Junk*?"

'Melvin Burgess probably doesn't mean to look scary, but he does. Perhaps it is the missing front tooth. Never mind that he knocked it out with a hammer while on a DIY mission, it still looks frightening'

Interview, page 20

Versace murder police seek high-flying rent boy

Phil Davison
Miami

United States police and the FBI launched a nationwide manhunt yesterday for alleged gay serial killer Andrew Phillip Cunanan, now prime suspect in Tuesday's Miami Beach murder of the Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace.

Florida police searched cars and hotel rooms and issued detailed wanted posters, describing the 27-year-old Californian

as "armed and extremely dangerous". Cunanan is wanted for five murders in four states over the past three months. He has been called a high-flying rent boy, well-spoken and extremely bright, who may have embarked on an orgy of murder against wealthy homosexuals after being told he was HIV-positive.

An FBI spokesman appealed to the large gay population of Miami Beach to watch out for the suspect but not to approach

him. "Everybody's got to help us get this man off the streets," said spokesman Paul Phillips. A Florida police spokesman also warned: "Anyone who has had previous contact with this individual should be concerned."

There was no confirmation of vague reports that Cunanan may have met the 50-year-old designer before.

Police and FBI sources admitted that the suspect could have reached Miami airport and flown to another city or

abroad before the FBI and diverse police bodies - from Miami Beach, Dade County and Florida state - had a chance to link key evidence to Cunanan. One report said Cunanan, of part-Italian, part-Filipino origin, may have flown to Manila.

The key evidence was a scarlet lightweight Chevrolet pickup van abandoned in a public car park two blocks from the Versace murder scene with bloodstained clothes dumped around it. It was almost 12

hours after the murder on Tuesday that Miami Beach police revealed that the van was thought to be one stolen by Cunanan from a cemetery attendant he is suspected of murdering in New Jersey in May.

It also emerged yesterday that reported sightings of Cunanan in the Palm Beach area, north of Miami, caused the FBI to issue wanted posters of him two weeks ago.

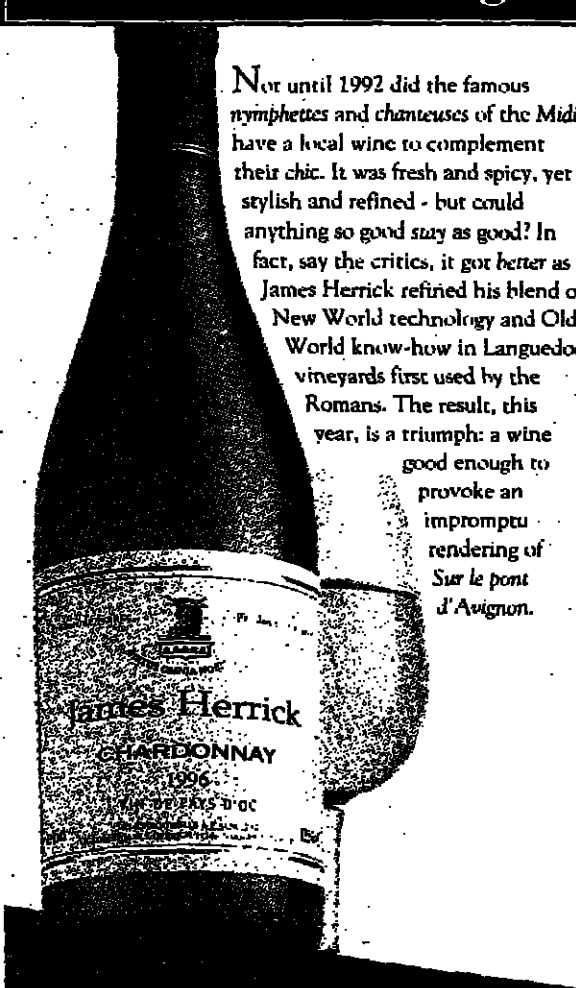
Meanwhile, the steps of Versace's oceanfront mansion were

turned into a shrine yesterday as curious sightseers left bouquets, sweets, trinkets or lit candles on the still blood-stained spot where the designer fell to the pavement after being shot twice in the head.

One girl posed in a Versace dress at the scene "for a souvenir picture". A young artist painted a reproduction of the Versace house on a nearby car window "as a gesture of respect from one artist to another".

Vendetta, pages 10 and 11

At last the South of France has the wine to match its women and song.



James Herrick
CHARDONNAY

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QUICKLY
Jailed for catalogue debts
Increasing numbers of women are being sent to prison for debts run up on catalogues and in-house store cards, according to prison welfare workers. Page 3

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Birmingham Six men set to camp on Straw's doorstep

Four members of the Birmingham Six are preparing to camp on the steps of the Home Office in protest at the state's failure to fully compensate them for the 16 years they spent in prison.

Hugh Callaghan, 67, Paddy Hill, 52, Billy Power, 51, and Gerry Hunter, 52, will picket the offices of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, unless he agrees to hold talks with them by the middle of next week. The four have decided to take their fight for compensation to Whitehall following six years of legal wrangling which has left them penniless. Two weeks ago, Mr Hill was taken to court by Haringey Council in London for failing to pay his council tax. He told the court that he simply had no money and was ineligible to claim benefits because no National Insurance contributions have been paid to cover his years in prison. Mr Callaghan, when he reached 65, was told he would have to pay around £4,000 in missed contributions before being eligible for a £53-a-week pension.

"We don't want to be millionaires," said Mr Callaghan. "We just want them to treat us fairly." The men have had two interim payments totalling £200,000, and a "final offer" in 1995 of around £100,000 for some of them, but they believe they are entitled to much more - and to an apology.

Steve Boggan
The Price of Freedom, The Tabloid

'Softly softly' pension review

A review of the pensions industry will be announced today by the Government, signalling a "softly softly" approach to Labour's plans for a top-up to the state pension. John Denham, the Social Security minister, will announce a period of consultation leading next year to a Green Paper on the options for improving pension provision. Ministers will invite employers and unions, insurance companies and other groups to put forward proposals for the new funded pension schemes. The announcement may calm tensions with the private pensions industry which were heightened by the Chancellor's budget decision to abolish the tax relief received by pension funds. The Tories claimed the move to raise £5bn a year by 1999 amounted to a "smash-and-grab raid".

Colin Brown

Hunters lose track over Trust land



Stag hunters were yesterday stopped from pursuing the National Trust through the High Court over its decision to ban deer hunting on its land.

Mr Justice Tucker ruled that, because the trust is a charity, he had no jurisdiction to order a review of its policies.

Matthew Knight, a solicitor representing the hunters, said he was considering challenging the "unfortunate" decision in the Court of Appeal or applying to the Charity

Commissioners directly. But he admitted there was no chance that the West Country hunts would be able to use National Trust land when the deer-hunting season begins on 1 August.

Hamilton hits back on sleaze report

Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP, will today deliver by hand to the Commons a 30-page letter denying accusations made in Sir Gordon Downey's report into parliamentary sleaze.

He is expected to question the logic of the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner and to challenge MPs to interrogate Sir Gordon on his findings. Two weeks ago Sir Gordon's three-volume, 900-page report found "compelling" evidence that Mr Hamilton took cash from Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods boss, in return for lobbying services. Mr Hamilton denies the claims.

Labour sheathes Excalibur

Excalibur, the rapid rebuttal computer at the heart of Labour's election campaign, has been wound down because of a shortage of cash. Where there were 10 party workers constantly inputting facts and quotes into the machine for easy retrieval, now there is just one.

According to a report in this week's *New Statesman*, the party is in the red after a "massive overspend" during the election. Excalibur, which was introduced three years ago by Peter Mandelson, costs £250,000 a year to run. Party officials said last night that the machine would be revived in the autumn.

Fran Abrams

Beggars to go from rags to riches

Street beggars could become city wardens earning up to £14,000 a year under a plan put forward by Labour members of Bath and North East Somerset Council, designed to give beggars and rough sleepers the opportunity to come off the streets. In their new role they would tackle the problems of aggressive begging and litter.

people



Face in the crowd: Aitken surrounded by photographers yesterday (Photograph: Brian Hurst)

Aitken's walkabout turns into a Whitehall farce

The collapse of Jonathan Aitken's High Court libel case was a personal tragedy. Yesterday, his first public appearance since his court battle, rapidly descended into high farce.

The disgraced former Cabinet minister announced that he was going to break cover after returning to the country from his brief self-imposed exile, following his humiliation in the defamation action. Pointedly, he had chosen to appear across the road from the House of Commons, the place where he had misled fellow MPs over his now notorious stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993.

In a statement, the former chief secretary to the Treasury and defence procurement minister had said he would pose for pictures but would not make any comments about the court case or its aftermath. He faces a Scotland Yard investigation into allegations of perjury and attempts to pervert the course of justice.

Accompanied by his solicitor, Richard Stokes, and his driver, Peter Beaumont, Mr Aitken stood on a slowly walk to College Green wearing a dark suit, a tan, and a broad smile which rapidly turned into a grimace as photographers descended on him en masse. For

a while he was trapped behind a makeshift barrier at a high wall.

Mr Aitken was not going to play the "David Copperfield" role. "I don't think we are going to do that," he said. "This is the way you are going to see me today."

Except it was not that way. The 100-yard journey back to his house in Lord North Street was a painful, slow and unending procession of posing and screaming photographers and cameramen, with a few flying, and among the throng a few who were shouting.

These are the questions that have been asked of him since he was first named in the *Evening Standard* in 1993. "What are you going to do about your perjury?" "What are you going to do about the Ritz?" "What are you going to do about the perjury?" "What are you going to do about the Ritz?"

With one exception. The only question that he did not answer was "What are you going to do about the perjury?" "What are you going to do about the Ritz?" "What are you going to do about the perjury?" "What are you going to do about the Ritz?"

Jim Sengupta

Newall sails into storm over medal from Falklands

Roderick Newall (right), the former Army officer serving a life sentence for the murder of his parents, has become embroiled in a row in the Falkland Islands, over a decision to honour him for his athletic prowess.

Newall made many friends in the Falklands when he briefly settled on the South Atlantic outpost after using his dead parents' money to sail around the world.

His outgoing personality made him popular in Port Stanley and he was willing to run errands in his yacht, delivering Christmas parcels to isolated farmsteads and helping out during the sheep-shearing season.

In 1991 he surprised the islanders by winning their annual running race. The mile-long contest, which takes place at Pebble Island on West Falkland, is part of a week-long sporting festival.

Patrick Watts, who organises the event, and is head of broadcasting for the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service, decided to present Newall with his winning



medal in a special visit to La Moya prison on Jersey where the killer is serving his sentence.

He said he had not had a chance to present Newall with the medal before he was arrested by the Navy while sailing his yacht. "There are quite a lot of [Falkland Islanders] who remember Rod and think a lot of him," he said.

But others disagree. One said: "It has caused a lot of anger. Astonishment, actually. Newall is a disgusting person who killed his parents for money and personally I think that giving him a medal is absolutely outrageous."

Ian Burrell

Court allows coma woman to die

A woman in a state of "living death" since a car crash three years ago should be allowed to die, a senior judge ruled yesterday.

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's Family Division, gave permission to a health authority to switch off the mother-of-two's life support machines after hearing evidence that she was in permanent vegetative state (PVS).

All life-sustaining treatment, including assistance with breathing, feeding and hydration, should be brought to a conclusion, the judge said.

The woman, aged 43, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, will leave a husband, 17-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter. She is the latest of a small but growing number of "right to die" cases.

Sir Stephen had been told during the three-day hearing that the woman's husband, doctors and carers all agreed that she should be allowed to die in peace and with dignity. She has been in a coma in hospital since the crash in 1994 in which she was the driver and her son a passenger.

Patricia Wynn Davies

briefing

TRANSPORT

Law allows lorry drivers to work while exhausted

A loophole in the law means lorry drivers can drive even when their judgment is almost as impaired as someone who is over the legal alcohol limit.

According to research carried out at the Centre for Sleep Research at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woodfield, Australia, after 23 hours without sleep the average person's hand-eye co-ordination is as badly affected as somebody with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 per cent - over the British legal limit.

But the Department of Transport yesterday admitted that lorry drivers are allowed to work for 20 hours without a break. The law states that they may only drive 10 hours in any 24-hour period - but there is nothing to prevent two periods of 10 hours being concurrent. The journey might start at the "end" of one day and continue into the "beginning" of the next.

Alison Goddard

WATER

Six firms losing war on leakage

Leakage actually increased at six water companies over the past year, despite the pressures of drought and reams of bad publicity about how much water the firms have been wasting, the industry's economic regulator, Ofwat, said yesterday.

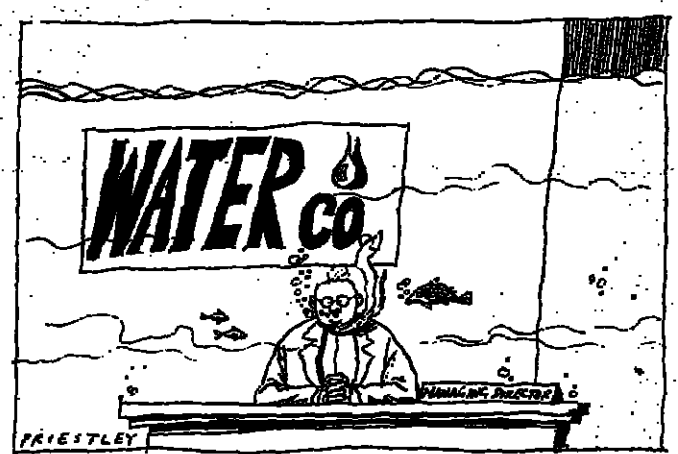
But Mid-Southern Water's leakage rose by 6 per cent since last year, from 196 litres per property per day to 205 litres - the highest increase recorded by any company. The company serves 650,000 people on the southern fringes of London and Surrey.

The other five offenders are mid-Southern's sister company, Eastbourne-based South East Water, which serves 650,000 in west Kent and Sussex, Wrexham, Three Valleys, covering a large swathe of country north-east of London, Bournemouth and West Hampshire, and Northumbrian, with 2.5 million consumers in England's far north-east.

The most impressive performance in cutting leakage came from the giant Severn Trent company, with a 24 per cent fall over the year, followed by Chester, with a 23 per cent reduction.

Britain's biggest water company, Thames, cut leakage by a modest 2.3 per cent and remains the largest overall leaker, with 321 litres lost per property per day.

Nicholas Schoon



HEALTH

'Mad cow' link to humans confirmed

Humans can catch "mad cow disease" from infected cattle, according to test-tube experiments - but not easily. New work by a team of British scientists at the Institute for Animal Health in Newbury, Berkshire, has for the first time shown that cell proteins taken from cows infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or from sheep infected with the equivalent disease, scrapie, can turn normal human cell proteins into the diseased form found in the fatal brain disorder Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

The work backs up the fears of scientific advisors to the Government, who last year decided that a number of young people with a "new variant" of CJD probably caught it from exposure to BSE. So far 19 Britons have been diagnosed with the "new variant". These brain diseases are thought to be caused by a cell protein called PrP - "flipping" irreversibly from its normal shape to an insoluble, infectious one. A chain reaction follows, until all the PrP is "flipped", leaving spongy holes in the brain.

The experiment, reported today in the science journal *Nature*, took extracts of purified PrP from the brains of BSE-infected cows, scrapie-infected sheep and people who had died of "new variant" CJD.

Each was mixed in a test tube with normal human PrP - which subsequently turned into the "flipped" form.

Charles Arthur

MEDIA

Press complaints at record high

More than 3,000 complaints were made to the Press Complaints Commission last year, an all-time record, according to its annual report, published yesterday.

The report reveals that of the complaints that raised a possible breach of the PCC's code, eight in 10 were resolved directly between the publication and the person complaining.

PCC Chairman Lord Wakeham described the figure, the highest on record, as a sign that the public knew about the PCC and was confident it would deliver results.

Paul McCann

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DELL

Catalogue debt sends women to prison

Jojo Moyes

Increasing numbers of women are being jailed for debts run up on catalogues and in-house store cards, according to prison welfare workers.

The female prison population has swelled by 76 per cent in the last four years, while the number of women convicted of serious offences has fallen by 16 per cent.

Today HM Inspector of Prisons will launch a new report, *Women in Prison*, seeking to address the causes of, and problems caused by, the massive increase.

But Petronella Davis, welfare advice officer at prison support group CAST, who visits inmates every week to help with debt counselling, says the reasons are clear. She says up to half the women she sees are there through debt, most often money owed to the DSS, home-

shopping catalogues and store cards.

"Catalogues are a big problem. These women have no money, their children are desperate for new clothes or trainers, so they get them on credit. Then they can't afford to pay them off and it becomes a vicious circle," Ms Davis said.

"Often catalogue companies will wipe the interest and let them pay off a tiny amount a week. The problem is, if they

keep the interest, it often means the debt never decreases."

She traces much of the problem back to the last government's decision to replace one-off single payments for items like furniture with loans.

"A lot of the stuff women do is related to poverty. They appear in court, their council tax or DSS loan starts being deducted from their benefits, they have to live off catalogues and credit to get out of that. We look

at their income - often they have already got too much being deducted to survive."

"And then there are shop cards with over 30 per cent interest payments. A lot of these women do not understand figures - they're not going to read the small print. They just see it as a way of getting what they need."

This was backed up by the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO), which

last year carried out a survey into debtors' prison. A spokeswoman said: "From the case studies that came back we saw exactly these problems. To a large extent women should not be in prison because it was a matter of need. But the way our system is run means that debt is punished, and the mother dragged off and her children left behind."

Chris Tchankovsky, director of the pressure group Women in Prison, said it was difficult to ascertain from Home Office figures how much crime was poverty-related. But from their case work, she estimated the figure was high.

"Poverty among women has increased, partly due to the rise in single parenthood, while the courts have become increasingly hard on women," she said. "Before more women are criminalised, we want them to ask - has every step been taken to stop them going to prison?"

All the organisations stressed that jailing a woman for debt can be counter-productive. "There are some women whose fine is less than it costs to lock them up for a week. If her child has to go into care, you've got that monetary cost, and then you've got the social cost," said Petronella Davis. "A lot of the women I see could do better with serious debt counselling."

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Louise Jury

They don't make them like this any more. There is the beautiful blonde with her legs sexy wrapped around a particularly large lipstick and then we have the baby swigging the "so pure, so wholesome" fizzy pop.

These advertisements could not run today - they would be regarded as too offensive and making a claim which could not be justified.

The Advertising Standards Authority celebrates 35 years of advertising self-regulation and its chairman, Lord Rodgers, said: "With hindsight, it is astonishing that some of them ever appeared in print. They help to illustrate how the codes have developed over the years."

The use of the baby to sell fizzy drinks "would cause outrage among parents and consumer groups" today, the authority said. The permissibility of the lipstick advert

would depend on whether or not anyone took it seriously enough to cause offence - "but the phallic imagery might well provoke modern-day objections".

If it did, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), which deals with all non-broadcasting advertising, would adjudicate. Today all products claiming to improve health have to be able to prove it. Ads should not offend on grounds of sex, religion or race. And cigarettes in particular "should not be associated with social, sexual or romantic success".

Nigel Griffiths, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said the authority pioneered "world-beating standards" of advertising when it launched in 1962. "The ASA is a good example of business and an independent watchdog working together to safeguard the public."

Cases of recent times have included 492 complaints against Club 18-30 Holidays which were upheld in 1995. The ads included one showing a bulging male form with the words: "Girls - can we interest you in a package holiday?"

What on earth would audiences in the 1950s have made of the half-naked couple in the Haagen-Dazs ads or Eva Herzigova displaying the full dynamics of the Wonderbra?

One advertising executive admitted that a little spot of trouble with the ASA always impressed the client. "They think you're pushing things to the edge," he said.

But John Pallant, at Saatchi and Saatchi, said the industry did not set out to offend, although they sometimes aimed to shock.

"Most people here are fairly sensitive about the way they go about things. They don't want to upset anyone," he said. "But in general, we don't try

to let anything straitjacket our thinking in the first place. It's usually afterwards that somebody says 'You can't do that.' Yet despite improvements, Barbara Lindsay, a university researcher who has examined women in advertising, said there were still problems.

"I think there's still a long way to go. Adverts do tend to portray men as active and women as passive and obsessed with attracting men rather than having a full range of interests in themselves."

Mary-Ann Stephenson, of the Feminist Society, said women had probably contributed to subverting the powerful images found in advertising. She pointed to a cartoon from 1980 with a woman at the kitchen sink.

"Mummy has to keep her hands lovely in case she ever wants to go back to brain surgery," the woman tells her daughter.

Good home sought for Gucci's unwanted horses

Kathy Marks

Nine sleek-coated brood mares graze contentedly in a paddock in West Sussex, flanked by their sides. In a neighbouring field, half a dozen muscular colts circle one another playfully. In the distance, the roof of a palatial Tudor manor house is just visible.

This is the estate of the late Paolo Gucci, playboy, fashion tycoon and breeder of prize-winning Arabian horses. In a fortnight, 62 of them will be auctioned off in a grand sale at the stables, near Ruspert.

More than 1,000 Arab bloodstock fanatics are expected to attend, including Susan George, the actress, Shirley Watts, wife of the Rolling Stones drummer, and a clutch of Arab sheikhs.

The horses, which are expected to go for up to £50,000 apiece, are in fine fettle, bright-eyed and well-fed. But RSPCA inspectors were greeted by a very different spectacle when they visited the stud farm six months ago.

The horses were allegedly in a pitiful state, starving and emaciated, some so weak that they could barely walk. It was reported that their stables were



Sorry state: Malnourished horses on the Gucci estate, now restored to health. Photograph: John Connor Associates

squalid, knee deep in manure. One was put down on the spot. The RSPCA removed 11 others to an animal welfare centre. It was a grim footnote to the saga of intrigue and rivalry that has unfolded since Gucci's death from liver cancer two years ago.

Penny Armstrong, the former stablehand who became his girlfriend, is locked in a bitter legal battle with his second wife, Jenny, for control of the 72-acre estate, Millfield Farm.

Ms Armstrong, who has been managing the property since he died, has been charged with cru-

elty to 13 horses. She denies it, and is still in residence at Normans, the house where she lived with Gucci and their two young children.

Meanwhile, the receivers, KPMG, are still trying to unravel the tangled web of Gucci's financial affairs. Gucci, black sheep of the family, grandson of the founder of the fashion empire, had declared himself bankrupt in 1994.

The horses, KPMG decided, were far and away the most valuable asset. So they brought in a stud manager, Sally O'Neill, to nurse them back to a state

where they were fit to be sold. Ms O'Neill said yesterday that conditions at the farm when she first arrived in January were extremely distressing. "The horses were in an awful state. Their ribs were poking out, their coats were tatty. It's not something I would ever want to see again."

Under her supervision, they have been fed, groomed, cared for and given proper veterinary attention. They now look every inch the proud and elegant horses prized by breeders for their intelligence and stamina. The grounds, too, have been resurrected; paddocks that had been grazed almost bare are lush and grassy once again.

The sale has attracted interest from Canada, Australia and the United States, as well as Europe. Terry Court, the auctioneer, says it is a unique opportunity to buy some of the best Arab bloodstock around.

One person unlikely to attend is Ms Armstrong, hunkered down in her house at the edge of the property.

"I think she's devastated at the prospect of losing the horses," said Ms O'Neill. "I would be, in her shoes. But there's no other option."

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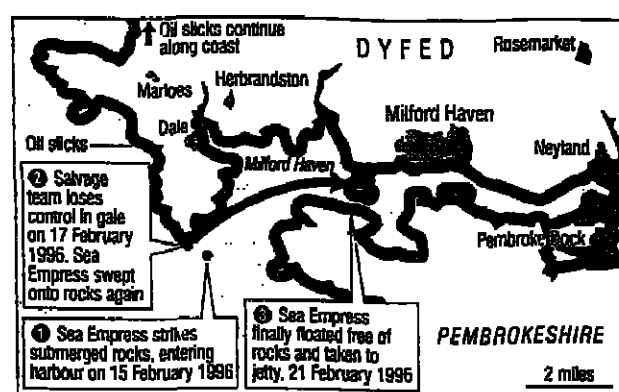
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news



Port chief to face charges over spill

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

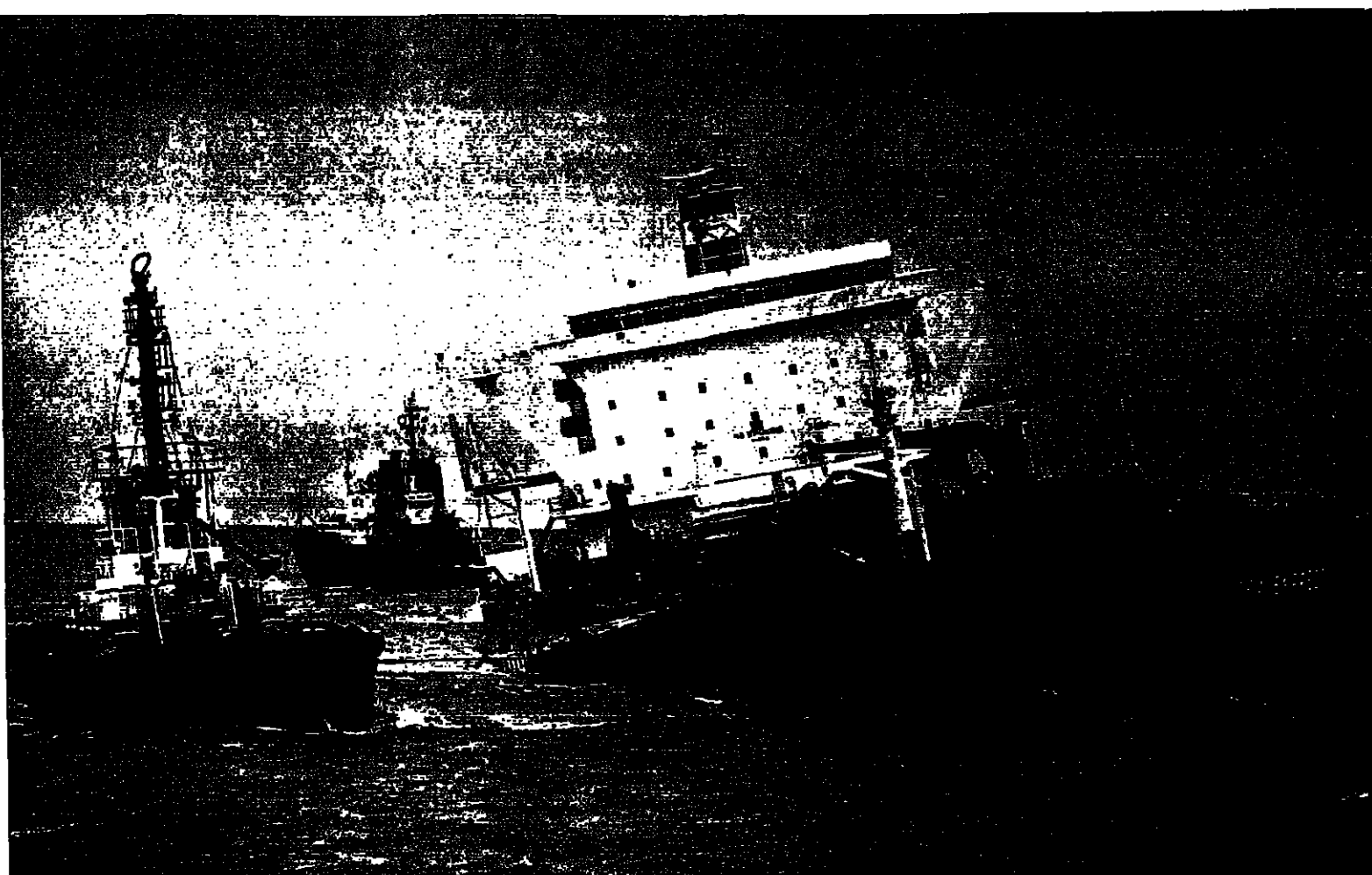
The Government's Environment Agency yesterday launched criminal prosecutions against Milford Haven's harbour master and port authority following last year's Sea Empress oil disaster.

The agency moved as ministers published a damning report into the grounding of the

supertanker at the entrance to the Welsh port and the six-day salvage operation which followed.

The agency has charged Milford Haven Port Authority and harbour master Clive Andrews with committing pollution offences under common law and the Water Resources Act 1991.

Last night the port authority said the charges were "misconceived".



All at sea: The Sea Empress aground off the Pembrokeshire coast.

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

The Liberian-registered tanker lost nearly 72,000 tonnes of crude oil over half its cargo, when much of its bottom plates were holed or scraped off in February 1996. It was Britain's worst oil pollution disaster since the Torrey Canyon 30 years ago.

Fishing grounds were closed and more than 100 miles of coastline - much of it in Britain's only coastal national park - was heavily slicked. Thousands of

seabirds were killed. The report by the Government's Marine Accident Investigation Branch makes dozens of serious criticisms of the port, the Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and the consortium of private enterprise salvors - and 24 recommendations.

"The immediate cause... was pilot error," says the report. Pilot John Pearn failed to keep the huge ship in the deepest part of

the Channel. The ship's Russian captain, Eduard Bogrov, was also blamed for failing to appreciate where the pilot was going wrong, and failing to know his intentions.

"The pilot's error was due in part to inadequate training and experience," says the report. Examination and training standards for the port's pilots were unsatisfactory, and there was a "deep rift" between them and

the authority. Mr Pearn still works as a pilot at Milford Haven. He was demoted to handling smaller vessels after a disciplinary hearing, but reinstated after an appeal.

After the initial grounding the salvors and authorities decided to use tugs to hold the damaged, listing ship in a small area of deep water at the harbour entrance. The plan was to pump the oil into another tanker: the Sea Empress would then have been floating high enough to bring her into port without grounding.

But two days later, as a gale blew up, the salvors decided to turn the supertanker to face the wind and waves. The tugs lost control: the strength of a tidal stream had been misjudged.

The Sea Empress was then swept onto rocks suffering much worse damage. It was another four days before the tanker was finally floated off and reached the harbour.

The accident report cites communication and management failures and missed opportunities during the operation. But, it says, the most important factor in the escalating pollution disaster was the lack of understanding of the strong tidal currents at the entrance to Milford Haven.

Marine Pollution Control Unit staff at the scene were undermanned and overstretched, and key members were sometimes diverted from their primary job to brief the media. The unit's overall commander, Chris Harris, should have gone to Milford Haven sooner rather than remaining at Southampton headquarters, said the report.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said the Pilotage Act, which covers standards and training for pilots, would be reviewed and Lord Donaldson, would also carry out a review of the command and control of salvage operations.

Prostate cancer: new hope of cure

Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

A mutant strain of the common cold virus is being tested as a treatment for prostate cancer, which kills 8,600 men a year in Britain.

American researchers believe they may have found a strain that targets and destroys the tumour, the second biggest cancer killer after lung cancer. A single injection directly into prostate cancers in mice shrinks the tumours rapidly, without side-effects. Results reported in the US journal *Cancer Research* show that after six weeks the tumours were on average reduced to 16 per cent of their previous size. Human trials are due to start soon, according to *New Scientist* magazine.

Dr Lesley Walker, head of science information at the Cancer Research Campaign, said today: "It sounds very exciting. We would be enormously interested to see if these results can be reproduced in patients. If they were, it would be quite remarkable."

The mutant strain of the virus was created by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and a Californian biotech company, Calydon. Although it becomes active only in those producing prostate specific antigen (PSA) - a protein involved in the production of semen and found almost exclusively in the prostate. The researchers hope the virus will not only destroy the cancer in the gland but, if injected into the bloodstream, will hunt down cancerous cells spreading through the body.

Dr Walker said a new, effective and safe treatment for prostate cancer was urgently needed. With surgery and radiotherapy, the risk of incontinence or impotence was high, while hormone drug treatments had unpleasant side-effects.

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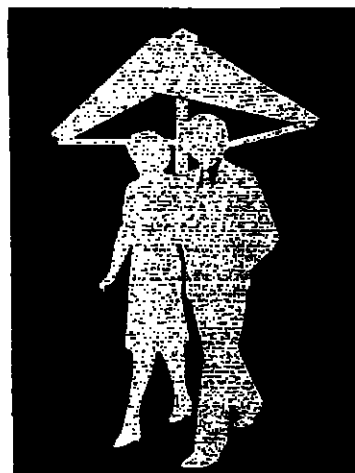
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Peace talks in jeopardy as Unionists take fright

David McKitterick
Ireland Correspondent

Northern Ireland's multi-party talks moved closer to a crunch point yesterday as the three main Unionist parties staged a walkout on the crucial issue of arms decommissioning.

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble has asked for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, saying that the talks process was in serious difficulty. This is expected to take place in advance of next Wednesday's vote on the weapons issue. The Unionist

parties fear that the joint position of the British and Irish governments, as set out by Mr Blair some weeks ago and amplified yesterday in a 12-page document, could allow Sinn Féin into talks without a guarantee that the IRA would decommission any guns.

Both Dublin and London appear to have arrived at a position, after years when the peace process remained effectively impaled on the arms issue, that it is unrealistic to expect the handing over of republican or loyalist materiel in the short term.

This is causing major problems for the Unionist parties who have elevated decommissioning to central status in the talks process. The two governments have conspicuously refrained from laying down timetables for arms handovers despite Unionist pressure.

The position of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party is clear enough in that he has effectively ruled out ever sitting round the table with Sinn Féin. But Mr Trimble's position is not so clear cut, and both governments are anxious to keep his party on board.

Mortgages

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Centrebank, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 17th July 1997 for both new and existing borrowers.

Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.19% per annum.

Stabilised Charging Rate 8.49% per annum.

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هاتوا من الأصل

**Kim Sengupta
and Agnès Séverin**

To stop becoming a target, one can join the little-known Mailing Preference Service. Membership, which is free, should mean that prospective mail-shot companies would exclude names held by the body. However, if such a check is not

- More than £1.4bn is spent by businesses sending return mail, for an estimated 1.5 billion letters last year.
- In 1996 3.73 million junk mail items were sent out.
- Households received on average 7.6 items sent through direct mail a month; 77 per cent say they opened the materials; 63 per cent claimed they read it.
- Business use of direct mail has risen by 196 per cent in the past ten years.
- More than 25,000 people are employed by the direct mail industry.
- Those who respond spend on average £83 per mail shot. They are expected to make three responses a year.

However Mrs France stated that as the secret services became more involved with crime fighting, those aspects of their work may well fall under data protection laws. She said that she had written about this to John Major when he was Prime Minister and did not get a response. She added: "The time may have come for us to take this up with Tony Blair and the new government."

Mrs France also announced that the DPR is issuing a set of guidelines for civil servants on gathering information on the public, and disseminating them. The code would be binding and the breaking of it could lead to disciplinary and even criminal charges.

"At the moment, those receiving direct mail have to make the effort for it to stop. There is a school of thought that it should be the other way round, with the companies engaged in sending the material having to get permission before they do so. However, marketing companies

say this would be hugely expensive and very difficult to put into practice."

Martin Bartle, communications manager of the Direct Marketing Association, defended the direct mailing business. "For instance, if your bank is sending you details on

how to get a better return on your money, or charities are trying to raise funds for worthy causes, then direct mailing is perfectly justified," he said. He claimed that 80 per cent of junk mail is normally opened, and 60 per cent read by the customers.

In her annual report published yesterday, the Data Protection Registrar, Elizabeth France, said the number of complaints against direct mailing had risen after a significant fall.

in 1996 only to rise to 24 per cent in the next year.

Launching the annual report Mrs France said that she would be examining whether some aspects of the work of the intelligence services could be brought into the data protection fold. At the moment, MI5 and MI6, as

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

Speed cameras have helped to cut fatal accidents in an area of west London by 70 per cent since 1992. Officials at the Department of Transport said a pilot scheme - which saw the number of speed cameras rise from 21 to 36 - has led to a saving of £20m.

covered, with serious accidents falling by 28 per cent. Gavin Strang, the Transport minister, said he considered "between half and two-thirds" of the lives saved could be attributed to the cameras.

Dr Strang, whose department is reviewing speed limits, pointed out that a third of all 3,600 road deaths a year could be attributed to speed. "Excessive speed is a killer. Two-thirds of drivers are breaking the

Since the initial scheme, there are now 400 cameras covering London's entire trunk-road network. The Highways Agency, the body charged with maintaining Britain's trunk roads and motorways, estimates that there are more than 1,000 cameras on the nation's roads.

ating cameras, many are left unfilled and instead used as a deterrent to stop drivers speeding. "We usually have a ratio of 1 to eight. That is one camera with film in it and eight that flash. The motorist does not know either way and we have found that the system does reduce speeds," said Sergeant Roger Reynolds, part of the Metropolitan Police traffic operations branch.

Sgt. Reynolds pointed out that on the original test site at

Twickenham bridge in London more than 8,000 vehicles a day would travel at 60mph despite the speed limit set at 40mph. When the last camera was installed earlier this year, only 31 offences were registered.

Dr Strang admitted the cameras, which cost £15,000 to £20,000 each, were expensive and said the cash had to be found within existing budgets and urged local authorities to find the resources to fund them.

Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, of the Police Superintendents Association, said: "It's certainly remarkable evidence and it's certainly something we'll be taking up with Government, with the Home Office, and I think Chief Constables will redouble their efforts." But he warned that some of the money saved by accident prevention must go back to the police so they could afford to buy speed cameras.

In focus: Only one in eight cameras is loaded with film

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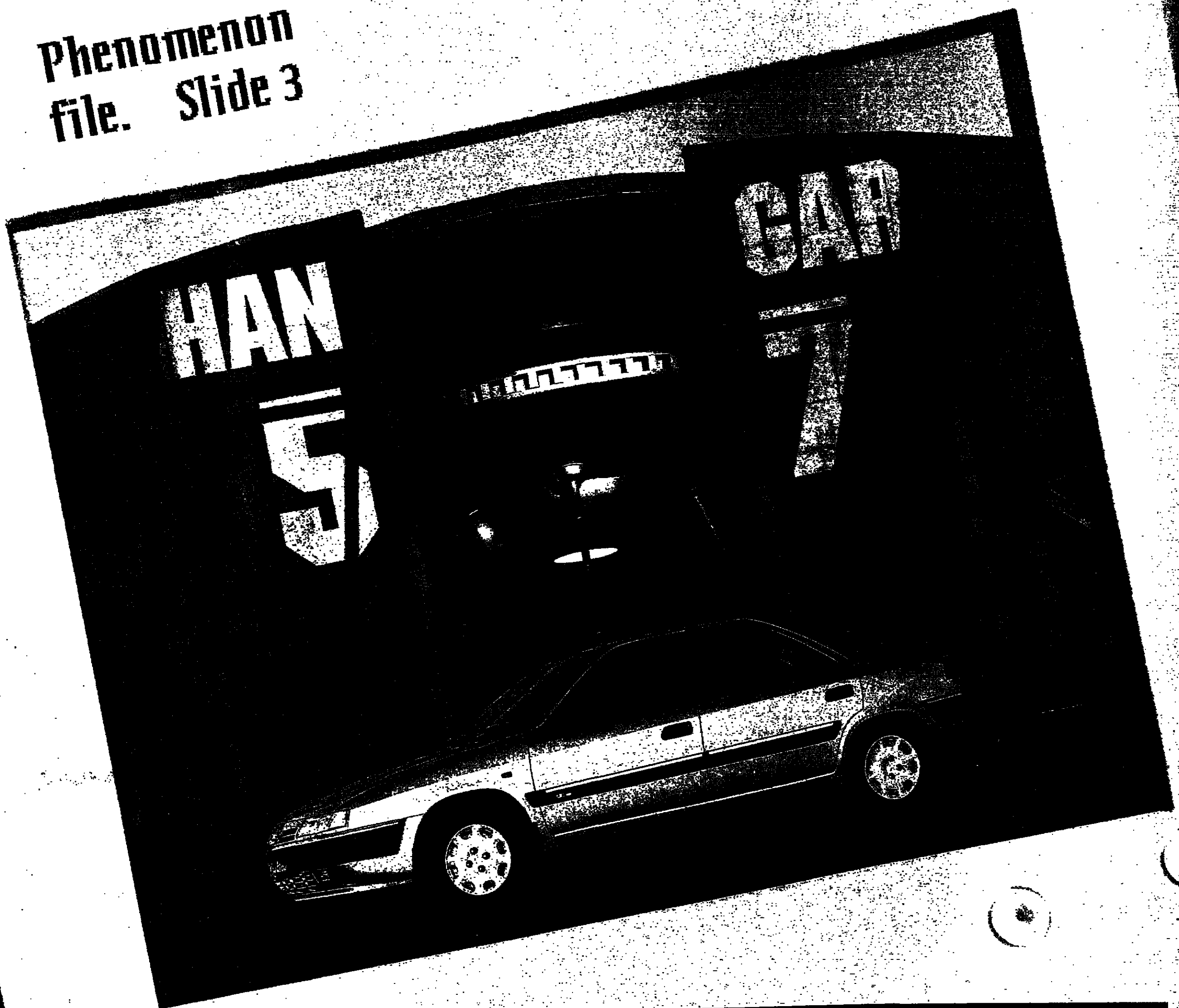
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Phenomenon
file. Slide 3



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Dinosaur epic loses sight of science

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

Parents seeking an excuse not to take the children to the latest dinosaur blockbuster, Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World*, have been given one by the film's scientific adviser: it's all wrong, apart from the way the dinosaurs look.

According to Jack Horner, a dinosaur expert who worked closely with Spielberg on the film, which has its London premiere tonight, "there's nothing accurate, apart from the way they look. They don't do anything that's natural".

It could have been even worse: he had to prevent eager Hollywood executives from giving the dinosaurs evil-looking forked tongues, like snakes – "dinosaurs were actually closer to birds", he says, and so have



Artistic licence: T-rex on the rampage, top left, and a new display of skeletons from the Gobi desert at the Natural History Museum Photograph: David Rose

straight tongues. The worst misrepresentation, he says, is the behaviour of the animals. "In the film, they don't chase prey, they chase people. Dinosaurs wouldn't do that, and they wouldn't try to eat through the sides of cars or a building to get them ... and they wouldn't

chase you because you got their baby."

Dr Horner is head of the Museum of the Rockies, in Montana, and was the inspiration for the lead character in the first Spielberg dinosaur film, *Jurassic Park*. But when science and the demands of the film

plot conflicted, the plot won.

Dr Horner did have praise for one London opening, though: a simulated "Dinosaur Dig" at the Natural History Museum, where visitors can search for bones and dinosaur footprints in a 18-metre by 15-metre pit. "It's a great place to come

and learn about the real science of dinosaurs," he said.

Possibly the last Hollywood film to depict science accurately was Stanley Kubrick's 2001: *A Space Odyssey* – released in 1967. It was surprising as much for the accuracy of its depiction of space travel as

its content. Its scientific adviser was Arthur C Clarke.

Does Dr Horner feel that a film could be made as true to dinosaurs as 2001 was to space? "I don't know," he said. "Neither *Jurassic Park* or *The Lost World* was made to show what dinosaurs were like."

Two-tier waiting lists to go

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

An end to two-tier waiting lists for hospital care was announced by the Government yesterday. But the move drew immediate charges from the opposition that it would lead to a levelling down of services to patients.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, said that NHS trusts would be required to operate common waiting lists for non-urgent patients from next April, regardless of whether they were referred by

fundholding or non-fundholding GPs. In addition, health authorities will be required to set maximum waiting times common to all their residents.

Official figures show that in 60 per cent of health authorities in England, patients of fundholding GPs get faster hospital treatment than those of non-fundholding GPs. A health department spokesman confirmed that yesterday's announcement would mean waiting lists for patients of most fundholders would rise.

Mr Dobson said: "Today is the

beginning of the end of the two-tier NHS. This is good news for patients. It is also good news for doctors and other NHS staff, many of whom have found the unfair two-tier system repugnant to administer."

Faster hospital treatment has been touted as one of the main advantages to patients of joining a GP practice that holds its own budget for hospital care. Almost 60 per cent of patients are now covered by GP fundholders who have been able to negotiate "fast track" deals with NHS trusts anxious for their business.

But in some cases, GP fundholders who have overspent their budgets have instructed trusts to delay hospital treatment to the maximum allowed under the Patient's Charter – 12 or 18 months. In this minority of cases, fundholding patients can expect a better service.

Dr Rhidian Morris, chairman of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, said that, far from achieving equity in the NHS, the measure would simply push inequity up from the level of the local practice to the level of the trust or health

authority. "We will still have a multi-level waiting list. If you live on the border of a health authority, a person two streets away could have a totally different waiting list," he said.

He said the move could also add to the financial pressure on hospitals as a doubled waiting list would halve the income from a fundholder. "I don't think any fundholder is going to be happy about increasing their waiting lists. There is a possibility of chaos and discord."

Other bodies welcomed the move. The NHS Confederation

said the principle of fair and equitable treatment for all patients was "clearly the right one" but the British Medical Association warned that equity for all "must not mean equity at a lower level".

John Maples, the Tory health spokesman, said the move amounted to "a levelling down of services to patients who need access to hospital care ... it is a clear admission that Frank Dobson cannot deliver the improved health service which only a few weeks ago he was billing as a racing certainty".

London health care damaged by NHS reform

Jeremy Laurance

A grim diagnosis of the state of London's health service is offered by a report, published yesterday, which says health care in the capital has been damaged by the destructive effects of the NHS market and institutional rivalries between the major teaching hospitals.

Sweeping changes are needed to improve health care and restore public confidence, the Kings Fund independent health policy think-tank, says.

The report is the second to be produced by the fund's London Commission in five years. It says little progress has been made since its first report in 1992. That laid the ground for the Government-backed Tomlinson review which recommended a radical programme to close hospitals, concentrate specialties and divert funds to the GP service and community care.

The new Kings Fund report, *Transforming Health in London*, says that while more than one in six acute hospital beds has been lost since 1989-90, because of the trend to day surgery and shorter in-patient stays, hospital sites have not closed. The re-

sult is higher costs and less flexibility to cope with emergencies.

The lack of nursing homes for the elderly and poor community provision for the mentally ill means that beds are blocked by patients who should not be in them. In addition, the pressures of competition and the market have required trusts to sell their services to outlying health authorities to boost income, making it harder for local people to get a hospital bed.

A key recommendation of the Tomlinson review was that specialties, which were fragmented across many sites, should be merged to concentrate skills and resources and raise standards. Five years later, the Kings Fund says this has been frustrated by the institutions to which they posed a threat.

Baron (Marmaduke) Hussey, chairman of the commission, said: "The main problem is that those with the greatest needs are getting the worst care. It is clear that the internal market fragmented care by putting dozens of health bodies in competition with each other. This report is about co-operation, working together to plan for the needs of Londoners."

DAILY POEM

Meditation on a Brooklyn bench

by Harvey Shapiro

I was by myself on the promenade,
facing the massive city. Pleasure craft
cut white trails in the water.
The lady with the lamp dim green
in the dim green afternoon.
A Circle Line boat, looking sprightly
hurrying up river, toward the Bridge,
and the old paddle steamer from
the South Street Seaport meandering
past Battery. The kind of day you
needn't take responsibility for, sitting
in the shade, like an elderly citizen,
wondering where it all went – the wife
and kids, the years of work. Covered over
by the waters of the East River. Not a river,
a tidal basin, and the tide coming in now,
full force, dangerous, looking for me.

Born in Chicago in 1924, Harvey Shapiro was decorated for wartime service as a gunner before becoming a journalist in New York; he is now senior editor at the *New York Times Magazine*. His *Selected Poems* are published by Carcanet (£8.95)

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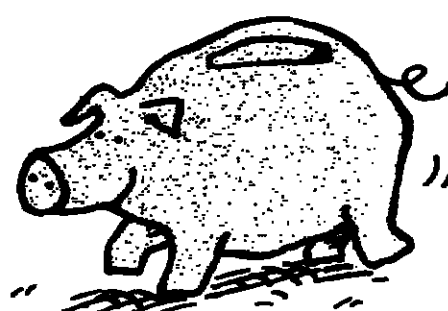
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Guard of honour: Japan's defence minister Aldo Kyuma inspecting Scots Guards in London yesterday as he arrived for talks in Whitehall Photograph: AFP

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

The Government is likely to merge the prison and probation services following a fundamental review of offender treatment. Tough new community sentences are also expected.

A new single Department of Corrections, creating a 53,000-strong organisation, is also an option under consideration by the Home Office.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced a study into the performance and effectiveness of the prison and probation services in an attempt to ease chronic overcrowding in prisons and restore

public confidence in community sentencing.

He wants to make greater use of community sentences and is expected to introduce harsher punishment for people convicted of violence, drug-related or sex crimes. There will also be greater use of electronic tags to monitor offenders at home.

The move comes weeks after it was revealed that convicted criminals are being charged with murder and sexual assault at the rate of more than one a week while under probation officers' supervision. As part of the reforms the current 54 probation areas in England and Wales are expected to be reduced to about 15 larger zones.

The Probation Service yesterday warned that merging services would threaten public safety as offenders would no longer receive proper supervision.

Mr Straw wants to increase the number of offenders who receive community sentences as a way of reducing the prison population which has risen above the record 62,000 mark.

The review will examine the American system - where there is a single agency - as well as those in Canada, Sweden and Australia. Mr Straw said yesterday it was aimed at identifying "best practice" in order to reduce crime and offending behaviour.

"It is essential to ensure that both services are better integrated and work more closely together," he said. "The services must operate efficiently and

effectively to restore public confidence in both community and custodial sentences."

Among the ideas being considered are greater sharing of information about prisoners and tougher community sentences for offenders involved in drug and alcohol abuse. This could include insisting on offenders enrolling in detoxification programmes and having regular drug tests. The Home Office wants to avoid accusations of offering a soft punishment to criminals.

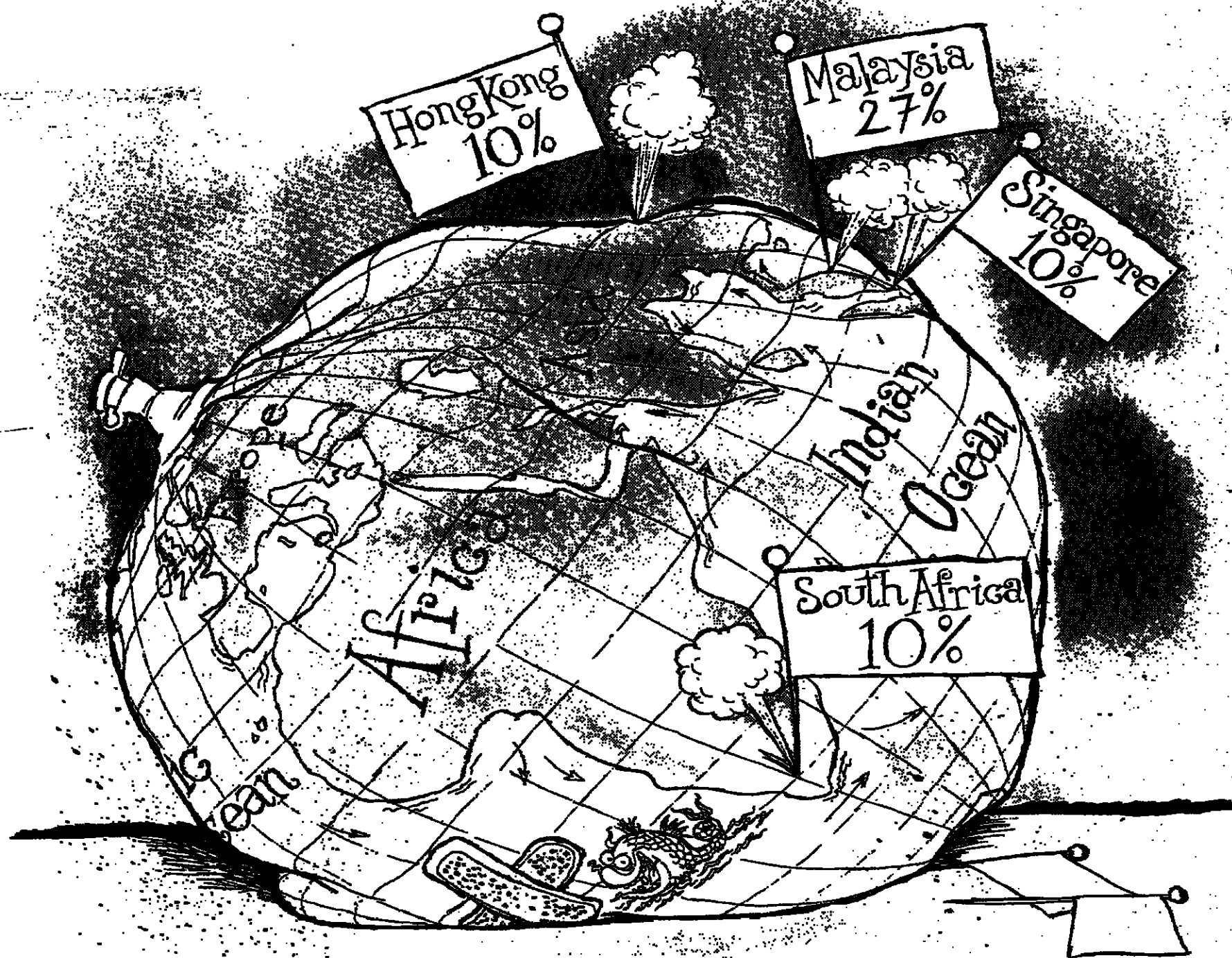
Last week the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, warned that it was up to the Government to demonstrate that it was not a "soft option": if judges were to use them as an alternative to prison. The review will be headed by the prisons minister, Joyce Quin, and is expected to deliver its report towards the end of November.

The announcement drew a cautious response from probation officers. Harry Fletcher, the assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, acknowledged that past relations between the two services had been "tense", but warned against a merger.

"A merger would almost certainly see the probation service swamped and unable to deliver properly its task of rehabilitating offenders and ensuring public safety," he said.

Mary Honeyball, general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said a "constructive review" could benefit both services.

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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS
THE LEADERS TACKLE BLAIR

THE LEADER asked Blair what lessons Blair drew from four and a half years in government. He replied: "The lesson I learn is that the Conservative Government put it up in the middle and asked whether measures which increased the number of working people reduced jobs." Blair replied that the Conservatives were incompatible with a successful economy.

Blair wins.

THE BACKBENCH ISSUES

THEMES OF THE DAY

- *Theater:* *Heavenly Creatures* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Science Fiction:* *Star Trek: Voyager* (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- *Cartoon:* *Simpsons* (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- *Competition:* *Survivor* (San Francisco, Calif.)
- *Documentary:* *War of the Worlds* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Music:* *MTV News* (New York, N.Y.)
- *News:* *60 Minutes* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Children's:* *Nickelodeon* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Game Show:* *Jeopardy!* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Reality:* *The Contender* (New York, N.Y.)
- *History:* *American History* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Travel:* *National Geographic* (Washington, D.C.)
- *Sports:* *SportsCenter* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Politics:* *CBS Evening News* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Religion:* *7 Days a Week* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Health:* *Oprah Winfrey* (Atlanta, Ga.)
- *Education:* *Educational TV* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Environment:* *Planet Earth* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Art:* *Art21* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Dance:* *Dance Central* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Film:* *Movies* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Food:* *Food Network* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Lifestyle:* *Real Housewives* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Technology:* *Discovery Channel* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Business:* *Bloomberg TV* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Weather:* *The Weather Channel* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Local:* *Local 42* (New York, N.Y.)
- *International:* *World News* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Special:* *Special Olympics* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Classic:* *Classic Rock* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Pop Culture:* *Pop Culture Now* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Documentary:* *Documentary Now* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Comedy:* *Comedy Central* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Animation:* *Cartoon Network* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Science:* *Science Channel* (New York, N.Y.)
- *History:* *History Channel* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Travel:* *Travel Channel* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Food:* *Food Network* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Lifestyle:* *Lifestyle Channel* (New York, N.Y.)
- *Art:* *Art21* (New York, N.Y.)
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- *Cartoon:* *Simpsons* (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- *Science Fiction:* *Star Trek: Voyager* (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- *Theater:* *Heavenly Creatures* (New York, N.Y.)

GOOD DAY

[illegible]


THE QUIP OF THE DAY

 began well off today after four questions, rather than the 10 questions which the Opposition leader is usually allowed. He's on a 24-hour contract," said Dennis Skinner (Lab., Bolsover) loudly.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

? Prentice asked Blair whether he agreed that it was "surprising" that Jonathan Aitken had left the country after his career collapsed. Now that he was unimposed to have resigned, Blair told Aitken to tell Aitken that he should stay and "face music." Blair, properly, would not comment.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY



Blair began four of his replies to Labour backbenchers with the words "My Honorable Friend is absolutely right" and Edw. Stanley East & Mervyn Duff took note, asking Blair whether he thought that the Government's abolition of the GP fundholding system was "stepped forward."

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Tory past provides Clark with key to television future



Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

Alan Clark, MP for Kensington & Chelsea, will join the pack of Conservative politicians pursuing a second career in television when he traces the history of his party for BBC2 this autumn.

Mr Clark, a military historian before he became an MP, said yesterday that writing books and presenting a television series was preferable to joining the Shadow Cabinet.

"A shadow position in the Conservative Party at the moment is comparable only to the Latvian Government in exile in 1943," he said. "I'm sure they argued bitterly amongst themselves about who was going to be finance minister."

Alan Clark's *History of the Tory Party* covers events from Stanley Baldwin's unification of a divided party in 1922 to its defeat in the last election.

The series is based on a book which will be released in the autumn. Mr Clark claims it is an academic and objective study but he refused to say whether the series would attack the last Conservative government.

"I haven't negotiated the serialisation rights [to a newspaper]

yet and I don't want to spill any of the beans," he said.

Mr Clark uses the series to further his opinion that Winston Churchill could have negotiated a settlement with Germany in the early days of the Second World War which would have saved the British Empire and Britain's economic health. He will also reveal evidence of moves within the party to get rid of Churchill in 1941 and 1942.

He promised the episode that covered Mrs Thatcher would not be a revisionist history. "If there is a theme it is that the Conservative Party is the party of the nation state, so it claims and so its members believe."

"At the end of its period in office the nation state was by any criteria in a lot worse shape. There are many factors responsible for this, but it is obvious that the party in management carries responsibility."

Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, will also appear on BBC2 this autumn, presenting a three-part series about war and diplomacy entitled *The Search for Peace*.

And the former Tory MP Tony Marlow will feature in *Campaign Confessions*, a fly-on-the-wall view of 10 candidates' election campaigns.

Small screen star: Alan Clark, with wife Jane at their home, Saltwood Castle in Kent, will present a history of the Tory party on BBC2

Photograph: Brian Harris

Councils told: Don't steal cash for schools

Colin Brown and Lucy Ward

Whitehall chiefs fear that some cash-squeezed councils will raid their education budgets to fund higher pay rises for teachers, or to fund urgent social services commitments, including care for the elderly, in spite of warnings by ministers.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, yesterday warned local authorities that they would risk forfeiting their right to manage education funding if they spend their £1bn Budget windfall on teachers' salaries instead of on schools.

If authorities did not toe the line, the Government would consider introducing a national funding formula which would mean it financed schools directly, bypassing councils altogether, Mr Blunkett said.

Speaking at the opening of the Council of Local Education Authorities conference in Bristol, he told LEAs to make raising school standards their top priority when distributing the extra cash.

None of the money should be used to award teachers above-inflation pay rises, he said. "We are asking you to join with us to ensure that money goes where it is intended."

Education was given an extra £1bn revenue and £1.3bn for capital spending to tackle the school buildings crisis in the Budget, partly funded by the windfall profits tax on the privatised utilities.

Mr Blunkett is confident that he can ring-fence the capital spending for repairing school buildings, by allocating it for specific projects, but ministers fear the additional revenue will be raided. Mr Blunkett was given the backing of the Local Government Association's (LGA) leaders who are writing a round robin letter to all LEAs to resist pay rises above the rate of inflation.

Graham Lane, chairman of the LGA's education committee, said he had urged Mr Blunkett to sack the independent teachers' pay review body if it proposed a pay award that was higher than inflation.

The LGA is seeking some flexibility in the spending caps on councils, to enable them to spend more and meet the higher cost by increases in the council tax next April.

The deep concern about council spending was underlined by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday at the first summit with council leaders.

Mr Prescott and the town hall chiefs pledged to find ways of averting cuts in vital local services through a "radical review" of funding after a breakfast "summit" in London.

Mr Prescott confirmed that the Government plans to meet its manifesto commitment to end capping, although it would remain next year.

But he said that ministers and councillors were looking at alternative ways of raising necessary cash.

Minister in new row over BP link

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Gas liberalisation is presenting a potential conflict of interest for Lord Simon, the Minister for Competitiveness in Europe, who has a continuing stake in BP.

The former chairman of BP, who accepted an unpaid ministerial post in May, has been under increasing attack from John Redwood, the Opposition spokesman, because he has kept his £2m BP shareholding in spite of his work at the DTI and the Treasury. Mr Redwood said yesterday that Lord Simon was in breach of the ministerial rule book and should resign.

But the Prime Minister's office mounted a robust defence of the minister, and accused Mr Redwood of trying to maintain his campaign for the Tory leadership.

A spokesman said Lord Simon had given up the chairmanship of BP and agreed to take a job without pay to help promote greater competitiveness in Europe—to the advantage of the British economy and employment.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has told the Commons that Lord Simon is barred from seeing papers or attending meetings "which have a bearing on BP", and it had been decided that "he should not be involved in matters affecting British Petroleum".

But *The Independent* has discovered that on 26 June, Lord Simon signed an explanatory parliamentary memorandum on a European Community document on the Single Market, which dealt, among other things, with gas liberalisation and state aid for industry.

Mr Redwood said that he was disturbed by the memorandum's contents, "when we had been assured he would not be dealing with issues that have a bearing on BP".

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the versace killing

Police seek rent boy on a murderous vendetta

Phil Davison
Miami

Andrew Phillip Cunanan, the 27-year-old Californian now hunted for Gianni Versace's murder, has been described by both police and his mother as a high-class male prostitute, a brilliant, charming rent boy who sought out wealthy older men to maintain a lavish lifestyle.

The FBI believes his world fell apart earlier this year when he learned he was HIV-positive, and he set off across the country from his home in San Diego on a revenge rampage of killings. Now, he is America's most wanted man, suspected of killing five men, including Versace, in four states. Part-Italian and part-Filipino, between 5ft 9in and 5ft 10in, weighing somewhere between 11 and 12 stone, he is described as "armed and extremely dangerous."

Two of his alleged victims over the past three months were thought to be ex-lovers, a third was the millionaire father of another and the fourth was a graveyard attendant apparently killed merely because the murderer needed his pick-up truck, believed to be the one found near Versace's house on Tuesday.

Miami police say they cannot confirm reports that Cunanan may have met Versace before he

allegedly shot him in the head twice on Tuesday. One witness said the designer acted strangely before sitting in his usual beachfront cafe for breakfast that day, suggesting he may have feared he was being followed. Cunanan's San Diego high school yearbook - he was known then as a strong cross-country runner - described him as the pupil "most likely to be remembered." He himself, then only 18 but perhaps already revealing the seeds of violence, scribbled beneath his yearbook picture: "Après moi, le déluge" - after me the catastrophe.

He dropped out of the University of California, San Diego,

where he was studying history, after apparently finding he could make a good living selling himself to wealthy homosexuals. "He called himself Andy or Andre de Silva and became a social animal," one friend said. "He hung out in hard-rock bars with yuppies and off-duty servicemen, telling them he was heir to his family's fortune or that he was an upcoming actor. He'd pay huge dinner bills with lavish tips."

US police and the FBI described him as "extremely intelligent, extremely well-spoken and articulate."

It seems he likes to play games with the police which

might explain the perfect escape route he chose, round a corner into a little-used alley and up screened stairs into a public car park. The blood-stained jogging clothes he had been wearing when he allegedly shot the Italian designer were found scattered haphazardly under and around his abandoned vehicle. Police sources that may have been a teasing message to the police, to help them notice the vehicle after he had fled.

The FBI believes that Cunanan set out from San Diego on a rampage of murder and revenge in April, stealing and abandoning vehicles as he went in what may have been a delib-

erate trail of clues to tease and taunt his pursuers. They suspect him of first seeking out his former lover, David Madison, 33, in Minneapolis. Between 27 April and 3 May, Madison was found shot to death in a friend, Jeffrey Trail, 28, was found beaten to death with a hammer in Madison's apartment. Madison's red jeep was stolen at the time.

This vehicle was found near the Chicago home of millionaire real estate developer, Lee Miglin, 72, a leading socialite, after he was found murdered on 4 May. He had been stabbed, his throat slashed and his body run over with his car, then wrapped up in brown paper and masking tape like a mummy. The car, a green Lexus, was found on 9 May in Pennsville, New Jersey, along with the body of 45-year-old graveyard attendant William Reese, shot with a pistol. Reese's red Chevrolet pick-up was missing.

Miami police and the FBI believe the truck was the one found in a five-storey municipal car park two blocks from the scene of Versace's murder, and where they suspect, Cunanan changed his clothes before fleeing in a taxi. They also believe the pistol that killed Reese may have been the same one that killed Versace and that the prime suspect, Cunanan, may still have.

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Wanted: Andrew Cunanan, seen in a 1987 picture from his school yearbook Photograph: AP



Flowers on the steps of Versace's home, where he was killed on Tuesday Photograph: AP



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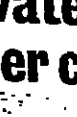
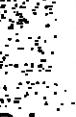
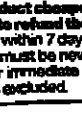
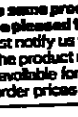
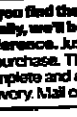
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Ocean Drive, where 'beach gods' and roller-bladers hang out

Fashion king lured by the 'beach gods'

Phil Davison

When Gianni Versace first saw Miami's South Beach art deco district, he was entranced by the light, the colours, the life and, according to friends, the perfectly-sculpted bodies of the "beach gods" who adorn its pavements, many of them gay.

"It was love at first sight," the designer recently told a local television interviewer. "It's like the world should be today." But friends said Versace had a long-time lover - his personal trainer Antonio d'Amico - and did not frequent the seafaring strip's gay bars or nightclubs and did not pick up guys.

It was d'Amico who came out of the front door of the oceanfront Versace mansion on Tuesday to find him fatally wounded on the steps, his head bleeding on to the pavement, his black sandals and magazines scattered around him.

Versace first saw the art deco district 15 years ago when asked to design outfits for Don Johnson in the Miami Vice television series.

He was the man who put Johnson's Sonny Crockett character in black T-shirts, linen jackets and baggy trousers the designer often wore himself and one that helped turn world fashion attention to Miami.

"This place is great for fashion. It's fun to see the clash of cultures, the chic with the shock, the very sophisticated with the very unsure," he said in the interview. "No one is hyper here. It's not like New York or Milan."

The chic were shocked by his killing in the heart of South Beach, where past shootings were usually faked for Miami Vice. Stunned residents have always seen the beachfront area as an oasis of fun and revelry - and widespread homosexuality

- in a city where violence used to stalk only the ghettos.

On his last walk from the News Café, a 24-hour bar and restaurant on Ocean Drive, he would have dodged roller-bladers as he passed by the glass-fronted South Beach gym where stars seen working out above the popular Cleveland bar, mecca of the art deco strip. Along the way he would have passed the product of such young men with rippling muscles, wearing only shorts, who use the 10-block Ocean Drive boulevard as a fashion ramp to show off their physiques.

While in the oceanfront mansion he renovated, and at whose gates he was gunned down on Tuesday, he preferred to throw lavish parties for such celebrities as Madonna, Sylvester Stallone, Sting, Gloria Estefani, the supermodels he helped to make famous. D'Amico always lived with him. Also often there, according to friends, was Paul Beck, American husband of Versace's sister Donatella.

Versace was said to be uncomfortable in such gay-popular bars as The Palace, a few yards from his home. He preferred to hold his own parties at home, the mansion built to look like Diego Columbus's 16th-century castle in Santo Domingo, but decorated inside à la Versace with leopard skin ceilings, mosaics and priceless Picassos and Modiglianis.

He liked to eat pizza in the Bang restaurant with its owner, Massimo Lucarini. "I was originally going to buy his house to make a restaurant," Mr Lucarini said yesterday. "But he loved it right away and asked me to change my plans. I thought it was better for Miami to have Versace than another restaurant, so I said 'yes'."

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the versace killing

Sister may take over the business

Andrew Gumbel
Rome
and Tamsin Blanchard

What will Versace be without Gianni Versace? Probably, little different from Dior without Christian Dior, or Givenchy without Hubert de Givenchy.

As the fashion world continued to reel in shock yesterday at the loss of one of its leading celebrities, the hardheaded financial analysts and business consultants were in no doubt about the continuing prominence of the clothes that made him famous.

"The brand has got its own identity by now," said Andrea Morante, a former employee of the Gucci empire now working as an analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston. "It is no longer dependent on its founder."

At first, the impact of Versace's death suggested the end of a fashion era. Across the world, boutiques were closed for the day and company offices surrounded by nervous security guards. The group's flagship store on Milan's Via Montenapoleone was shuttered and deserted apart from a small sign reading "Closed for Mourning".

But, after nearly 20 years of phenomenally successful trading under his own name, even Gianni Versace was not big enough to be indispensable.

The group now includes four separate brands, from the top-of-the-range ready-to-wear wardrobe, to a line in casual jeans, to the two sportswear brands Isotane and Versus.

Gianni remained the creative force behind the empire until his death, but his brother, Santo, holds the purse-strings and his sister, Donatella, has considerable creative and administrative responsibilities. The chances are they will continue to expand a world-wide business that generated around 1.7 trillion lire (£600m) turnover last year.

The profile of Donatella, 42, has grown enormously. Gianni had already handed over creative control of the younger Versus line to her to the extent that she takes the bow at the end of the shows in New York. She is famous for her encyclopaedic knowledge of the music industry. "If I hadn't been in fashion, I would have been a rock star," she has said. She is well equipped to continue cultivating the links between music and fashion that Gianni so cleverly exploited.

The logical step will be for Donatella to take over creative control of the company. Fashion insiders were yesterday confident that she could take on the role. She has the power and confidence. Nobody will replace Gianni in terms of the charisma and personality he gave the brand, but she had increasingly been contributing more and more to the running of the business. Gianni once said he owed everything to Donatella.

There is a strong enough brand image in the ranges to keep the company thriving for years to come. The only element of the company that may suffer is the couture and ready-to-wear which will lack Gianni's personal touch and his unique eye.

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Stitched up: Julia Roberts (left) and Cindy Crawford in creations by Missoni (top) and Valentino, and Nicole Kidman in an Alaïa. Photos: LFI, Gavin Bond, Bel Elwes, Chris Moore, Rex Features

...but who will become dresser to the stars?

Tamsin Blanchard

Liz Hurley will miss Versace more than she knows. Her career was built on a single piece of Versace magic, held together by gold safety pins. No other designer could grab headlines and cause a sensation quite like Gianni.

No other designer would push the depths of tackiness, and make a dress plunge down and slash up at all the strategic places. The thing about a dropped Versace dress is that usually the sex goddess inside it

couldn't possibly be wearing any knickers. Not even a G-string.

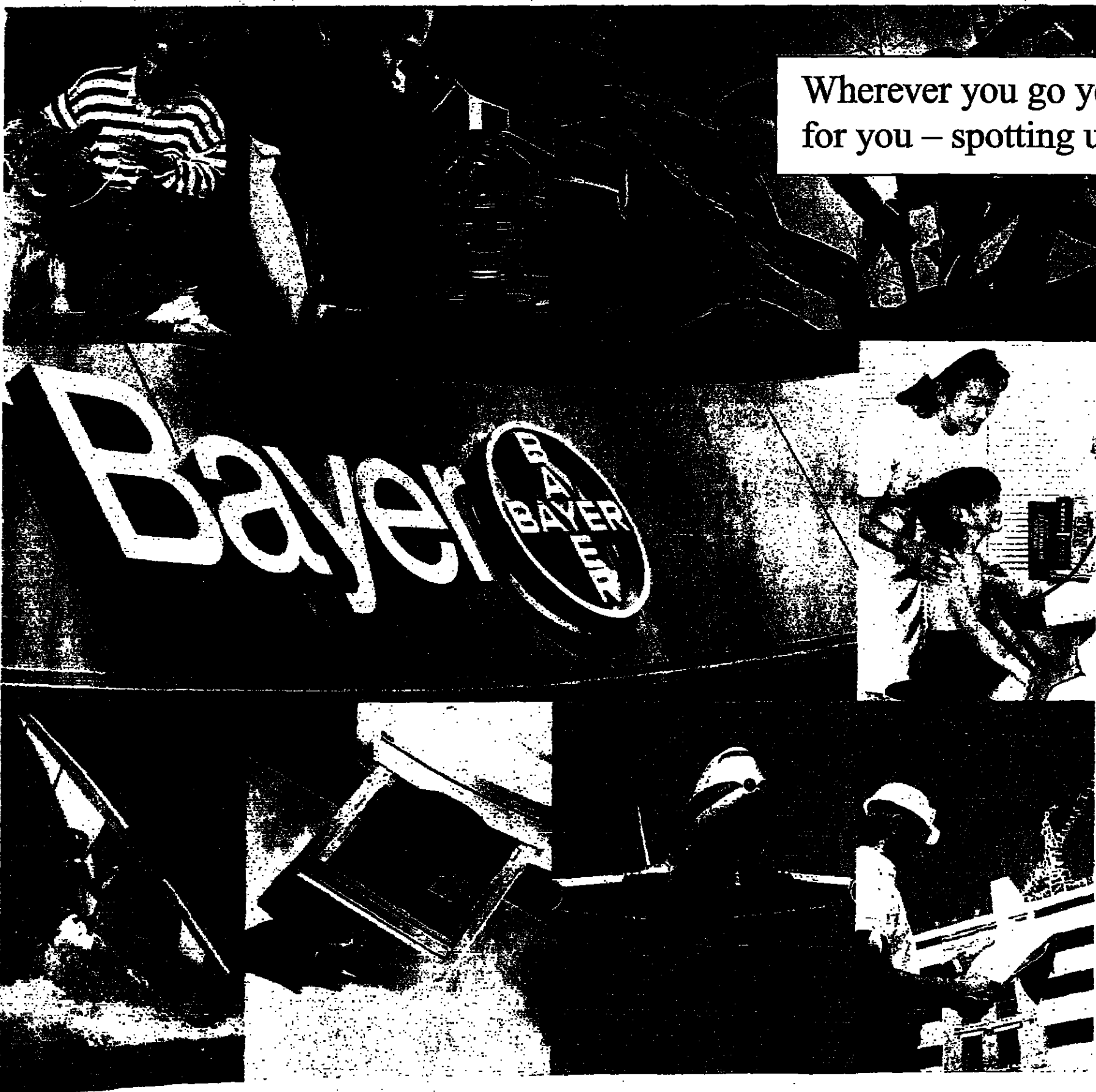
Aspiring Hurleys will have to shop elsewhere if they are after a dress sensation guaranteed to get fashion editors, casting agents and editors in a flap. When it comes to star, "result" dresses, the centre of the fashion world is Beverly Hills, where every design house with an eye on the value of a bit of free publicity has a PR and an agent. So who will the stars go to now?

Missoni is the latest design house to embrace and be embraced by Hollywood. At a recent charity show Angela Missoni, responsible for souping up the label's eveningwear, flew to the LA branch of Saks Fifth Avenue to cultivate the likes of Jodi Spelling, herself a Versace customer, Jennifer and Meg Tilly, and Quincy Jones. Almost the entire stock sold out. Sharon Stone, a Valentino wearer, requested to meet Ms Missoni for lunch. "I don't think we have the same pizzazz as Versace," says Missoni. "But we have certainly gone more glamorous and sexy. Hollywood picked up on that about a year ago." At the

premiere of *My Best Friend's Wedding* in New York CHK two weeks ago, Julia Roberts made the front page of the *Evening Standard* as well as the *Daily Mail* in a light-catching strappy, sequinned Missoni sheath. What with Missoni, Armani, who dresses Jodie Foster, Winona Ryder, Faye Dunaway, Glen Close, and Dolce e Gabbana, favourites of Madonna, the Italians have cleaned up on celebrity dressing. Rome-based Valentino makes dresses with sex appeal that has seduced Stone and Joan Collins into slipping into them. His most recent couture collection took a dip from his usual high-taste levels and had the brash appeal of Versace, with vulgar fur trimmings, spike heeled booties and glitzy evening gowns.

Other dresses that have made headlines include that Dior empire line number that Diana, Princess of Wales wore last year to the opening of the Dior retrospective in New York. That wasn't a result of sex appeal but because it was John Galiano's first for Dior and because it was worn by Di.

Galiano knows how to cut a slinky evening frock. Nicole Kidman was voted one of the best-dressed at this year's Oscar ceremony in a green embroidered, mink-trimmed dress from his first collection for Dior couture. Another designer who rose to prominence in the Eighties is Herve Leger, or "Curvy Herve" as he was nicknamed by the tabloids. He makes unashamedly steamily sexy dresses out of strips of industrial strength elastic that push up and in as effectively as anything Versace designed.



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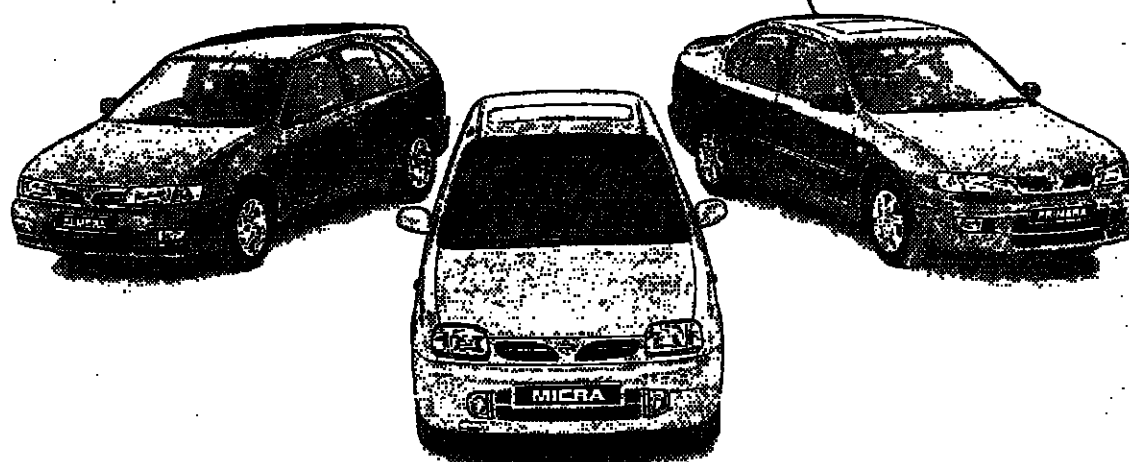
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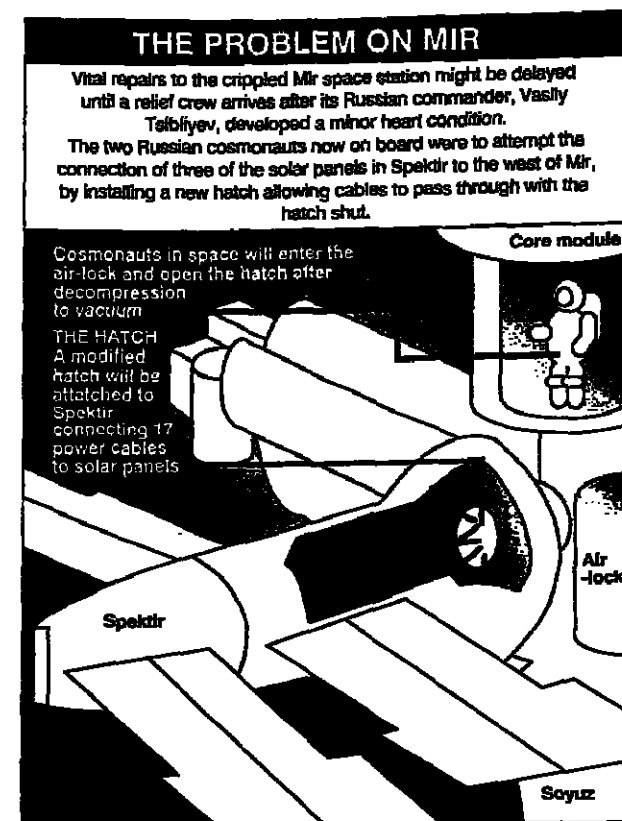
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Under pressure: Michael Foale (left), Alexander Lazutkin and Vasily Tsibilyev (right) in video-link conference with Russia's Space Mission Control Centre yesterday. Photograph: AFP

The riskiest-ever walk in space

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Briton set to step in to undertake vital repairs to ailing space station

Russian officials yesterday decided that the ailing commander of the damaged *Mir* space station will not take part in a perilous repairs mission, and made further moves to press Nasa to allow the British astronaut Michael Foale to replace him.

They claimed that Nasa had agreed to allow Foale to train for the operation, which some are billing the most dangerous space-walk ever. But no final decision will be taken until next week.

The trip to reconnect solar panels in the dark, freezing

and airless Spektr module has been rescheduled to next Thursday because the commander, Vasily Tsibilyev, has developed heart problems. The module was punctured in a collision with a cargo ship three weeks ago.

The sortie may yet be carried out by a relief crew who are due to dock with *Mir* on 7 August, but the Russians have made clear that they want to go ahead as soon as they safely can. *Mir* has been on just over half power since the collision.

However, the Russians appear to be more enthusiastic

about using Foale for the mission than their counterparts in Houston. Last night, Nasa said it had not yet agreed to allow him to go on the sortie, or to take part in extensive pre-walk training. "He can do some basic things, but no official simulations or the actual spacewalk - none of that's been approved by Nasa yet," said a spokesman.

The two-man repairs mission had been planned for this week, but was postponed when Tsibilyev, 43, developed an irregular heartbeat, a condition which doctors attributed to tension in

the aftermath of the crash. He also complained of tiredness and overwork. Russian press reports say that officials blame him for the accident, the worst in the station's 11-year-history.

A practice run is planned on Monday. Reports here said that afterwards officials in Russia's Mission Control outside Moscow and Nasa's Johnson Centre in Houston will hold a video conference to decide whether Foale should participate. If he does, it will be a first for Britain. Although he is now a US citizen, he was born in Lin-

colnshire, educated at Cambridge, and is the son of an RAF air commodore.

The chief of Russia's Mission Control, Vladimir Solovoyov, said yesterday that Foale was "clearly delighted" by the possibility of taking part in the sortie. Under the initial plans, he was not expected to venture into space during his stint on *Mir* flight, although he has walked in space before, in 1995.

Under the original plan, Foale was to have spent the operation in the Soyuz escape capsule, ready to launch an

emergency getaway if necessary.

If he replaces the commander, then it is likely he will find himself assisting the flight engineer, Alexander Lazutkin, who will enter the module and try to locate wires from three solar panels. These cables, which were unhooked in the scramble to seal off the module after it was holed, will be reconnected to a hatch linking it with *Mir*.

The crew's task is further complicated by uncertainty over what may be floating around inside Spektr. There is concern that laboratory chemicals may have escaped from their containers and could damage the cosmonauts' equipment.

THE PROBLEM ON MIR

Vital repairs to the crippled *Mir* space station might be delayed until a relief crew arrives after its Russian commander, Vasily Tsibilyev, developed a minor heart condition. The two Russian cosmonauts now on board were to attempt the connection of three of the solar panels in Spektr to the west of *Mir*, by installing a new hatch allowing cables to pass through with the hatch shut.

Cosmonauts in space will enter the air lock and open the hatch after decompression to vacuum. THE HATCH: A modified hatch will be attached to Spektr, connecting 17 power cables to solar panels.

Grim future for democrats in Cambodia

Matthew Chance
Phnom Penh

Two weeks of sleepless nights have visibly shaken Lao Mong Hay. The Phnom Penh office of his Khmer Institute of Democracy had to close during Cambodia's latest bout of political violence, which ushered in Hun Sen as the sole effective ruler. Now the institute's doors are open once again but the mood among its researchers and librarians is grim.

"Our situation is bleak," says Dr Lao. "Hun Sen's gamble with democracy and the world looks like it will pay off and the losers are the people of Cambodia. Our hopes for peace, security and freedom are shattered." Dr Lao has charted his country's UN-sponsored experiment with democracy from its inception at talks in Paris back in the 1980s. Accountability and freedom were always tall orders for a country bred on violence but the international community, he says, looks poised to abandon all hopes of true democracy in Cambodia in deference to Hun Sen, a man whom, at great risk, he labels "Cambodia's new dictator".

Earlier this month forces loyal to "second" prime minister Hun Sen ousted his rival and senior co-premier, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, accusing him of forging an illegal pact with the hated Khmer Rouge guerrillas. In two days' fighting in Phnom Penh, 58 people, mostly civilians, died. Japan, the US and Germany suspended aid programmes; thousands of foreigners were evacuated or advised to leave in a gesture of diplomatic protest. Although

fighting continues in the remote north-western jungles, the situation has calmed over much of the country. Prince Ranariddh fled into exile and the militias of Hun Sen are tightening their grip amid reports of arrests and killings. In the rural provinces and in towns across the country, signs of Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC political party have been ripped down by troops. Party slogans have been pointed over with broad strokes of black paint and replaced with new messages. "Reynist Trailors," read graffiti scrawled across the broken walls of one erstwhile FUNCINPEC party office in Phnom Penh.

But the initial anger of the world's democracies has been replaced by a cynical acceptance of the country's new and authoritarian sole power. Hun Sen added a veneer of legitimacy to his takeover by naming the FUNCINPEC Foreign Minister, Ung Huot, to replace his former boss as co-premier.

The reason for the attitude appears to be one of pragmatism. The UN-forged coalition between Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh failed, and Cambodia, plagued by rivalry between the two co-premiers, was racked by corruption and all but paralysed for the past 18 months.

"At least now things might get done, laws might get passed, and the country might get moving again," said a diplomat.

But the stance is hardly justifiable in the face of the country's collective terror at the prospect of a return to life without the freedoms promised in the four years since its imperfect, but fledgling, democracy lurched into life.

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EC holds hand out as states make grade

Sarah Helm
Strasbourg

The European Union yesterday launched what will probably become the most ambitious and traumatic transformation in its history, when proposals were published to expand to 21 members early in the new millennium. Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus were told by the European Commission that they had sufficiently proved their democratic and economic credentials to start negotiations on membership early next year.

A further five countries, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Romania, learnt that

Expansion plans set to take EU members into new millennium

they had failed to qualify for the first wave of expansion, but were assured that they, too, could join once they have made the grade.

The expansion programme will produce a "stable Europe that is open to the world," the Commission promised, in a detailed exposition of the expansion programme called "Agenda 2000". The working assumption is that negotiations with the first

applicants could be completed by 2002 or 2003, said Jacques Santer, the European Commission President.

Accession talks with the new members are to be accompanied by far-reaching reform of EU agricultural policies and aid funding, and the entire programme is to be financed by a "veritable Marshall plan", amounting to 75 billion euros (£52.5bn) pledged Mr Santer.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the programme "opens a new chapter in the history of the European Union" and he welcomed the fact that Europe was "moving away from introspection" to "enhance prosperity and security



Slouching towards Brussels: There are said to be 'shortcomings in democracy' in Bratislava, Slovakia's capital

throughout Europe". However, even as the proposals were being distributed early signs emerged of the fierce political battles that lie ahead, as the expansion gets under way.

After presenting his plan to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Mr Santer was accused by Parliament members of risking "dangerous political division" among would-be

members by inviting some former Soviet bloc countries into the club before others.

Some applicants have suggested the exam process has been a lottery. Slovakia, for example, where GDP is relatively high for Eastern Europe—at 41 per cent of the EU average—but which failed the tests because of "shortcomings in the functioning of its democracy", condemned the Commission ruling yesterday as "unjust".

Estonia, meanwhile, which has a GDP per head of about 23 per cent of the EU average, but, which, says the Commission, "presents the characteristics of democracy", easily qualified for early entry.

Mr Santer rejected allegations of bias and assured all member states that the first-wave countries were "part of a process to be engaged with all applicant countries". Annual reviews are to be instituted with each applicant to ensure they all remain on track for membership, says the Commission.

Reaction to the Commission's proposals is likely to be just as fractious among existing member states, already doubtful about the benefits and cost of enlargement. A final decision on who joins when is to be taken by heads of government at the Luxembourg summit in December.

Mr Santer reiterated yesterday that last month's Amsterdam summit, intended to re-vamp EU institutions ready for expansion, had failed, and announced that a new Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) would be needed around 2000 to complete the job.

However, launching a new IGC could mean launching months of new introspective debate, of precisely the kind which Mr Cook had hoped was over, raising questions about the entire enlargement timetable.

Without re-vamping the EU's present structure, however, the union could simply implode. The complexities of enlargement raise staggering possibilities for day-to-day man-

agement in Brussels and Strasbourg.

For translators, for example, the accession of all 11 candidates would bring 11 new languages into the EU (Cyprus would introduce Turkish) presenting about 244 possible language combinations.

Even without an early new IGC, political infighting among member states could still alter the list of first-comers, and the timetable for accession.

Several governments have already indicated that they would have preferred a smaller "first wave" of just Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, to limit the shock to EU institutions and budget. There has also been a preference among many member states for starting the negotiations with all applicants and allowing the slow-paced to drop behind.

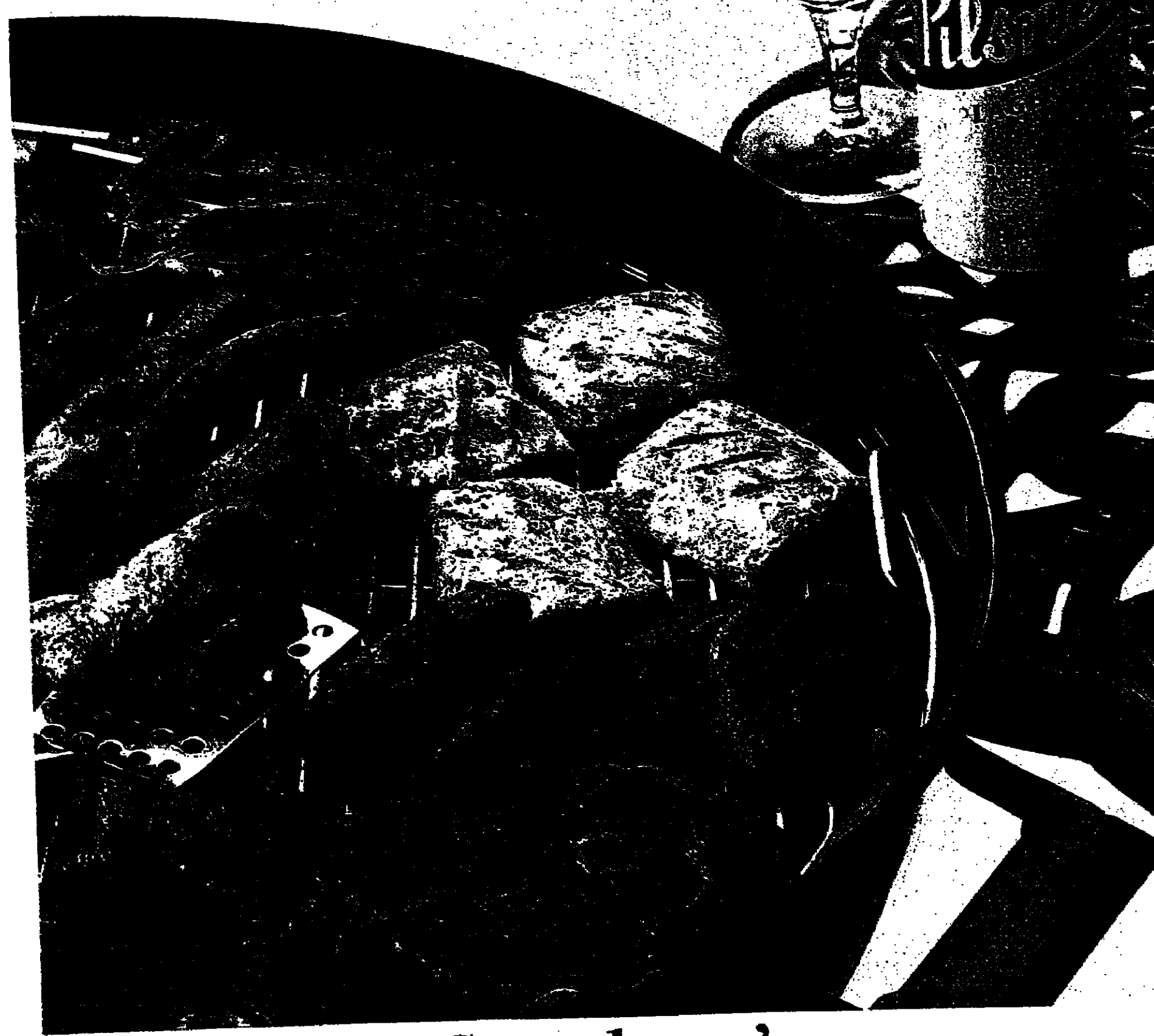
However, this so-called "regatta" approach could also have been viewed as an excuse for further procrastination, and the Commission bravely chose yesterday to name the names of qualifying countries—decisions widely seen to have been soundly and fairly based. Given the recent Nato decision to accept just three new members, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, the EU's approach of five plus one (a phrase which distinguishes Cyprus from the east Europeans) may yet be seen to make geo-strategic sense.

Of fundamental interest to member states in the ensuing debate will be the inevitable cuts in their own EU aid funding, as money is shifted towards helping the new members.

The phasing out of priority aid status for many EU regions, where GDP has now achieved 75 per cent of the EU average—the cut off for special funds—will reduce money flowing to millions of existing EU citizens.

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Tough talking ahead with EU farmers

Katherine Butler
Strasbourg

European agriculture ministers open negotiations next week on the most radical ever reform of the EU's farm policy, the pace and scale of which is being directly dictated by the planned expansion into Eastern Europe.

As revealed by *The Independent* last week, proposals unveiled by European Commission President Jacques Santer yesterday outline the first stage of a bid to phase out guaranteed market prices, the cornerstone of the annual £30bn Common Agricultural Policy budget since its inception in 1962. Prices for the three key commodities—cereals, beef and dairy products—could be slashed by up to one third between 2000 and 2002, accompanied by a huge shift towards direct aid for farmers on low incomes.

Defending the proposals, Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, warned there was no other option. "The alternative to reform, if we carry on with the present system, would mean new cereal and meat mountains, bigger than the ones we had to cope with in the past. The demand for food is not going to go up significantly in the next few years," he said.

Eating up around 45 per cent of the EU's central budget, agriculture is an obvious target for pre-enlargement reform. This will not necessarily reduce the amount the CAP costs taxpayers, but to avert an explosion in spending down the road given that a quarter of the workforce in Eastern Europe is employed on the land, Brussels also fears the political and economic upheaval which would flow from forcing eastern Europeans, whose purchasing

power is one third of people in the EU, to pay the artificially high prices charged in the Union.

Direct cash aid will, the Commission estimates, cause spending to rise by almost £6bn annually, while savings on price and export subsidies will amount to £2.8bn, a net increase of £3.2bn in the annual farm budget.

But consumers should see some benefit. Cutting the price guaranteed to farmers by 30 per cent for beef, 20 per cent for cereals and 10 per cent for milk is aimed at allowing EU farmers to compete on world markets without the aid of export subsidies. Beef in Australia is produced for around 38p per pound, in Europe farmers receive closer to 90p per pound.

The drive towards world prices should therefore in the long run lead to cheaper food in the shops from 2000, easing the burden for EU taxpayers on one front at least. "It is clear that the prices for consumers will come down. Beef in particular must become as competitive as white meat in the supermarkets," said Mr Fischler.

Industry analysts stress, however, that the play of market forces could work against consumers as it did in the past three years, when a world drought drove the grain price up despite 1992 cuts in the guaranteed prices for cereals. Furthermore the farmgate price is just one element of the retail price—transport, packaging and the profits of middlemen have to be factored in.

The reaction of the powerful EU farm lobby which immediately labelled the latest proposals "catastrophic" heralds a rough round of negotiations which could see the worst of the price cuts softened.

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TWA 800 inquiry lost in a labyrinth

On the first anniversary of the crash that killed 230, there is still no solid lead as to the cause

David Osborne
New York

The waters off Long Island promise to be smooth this evening, pressed into silken submission by a heatwave typical for mid-July. They were that way on this night one year ago; then, however, they were also on fire.

It is the first anniversary of the crash of TWA Flight 800 and still we are asking the same question we asked that night as, glued to our television sets, we watched the flames dance on the ocean surface. What happened aboard that Boeing 747 - an aircraft with an unparalleled safety record - to have brought it down? A mammoth investigation still goes on, which, when it is done, will probably cost \$50m (£31m). The FBI at one point had 700 agents assigned to it. Some 95 per cent of the aircraft, its white-and-red-liveried body twisted and torn, has been recovered and a 90-foot section has been reconstructed.

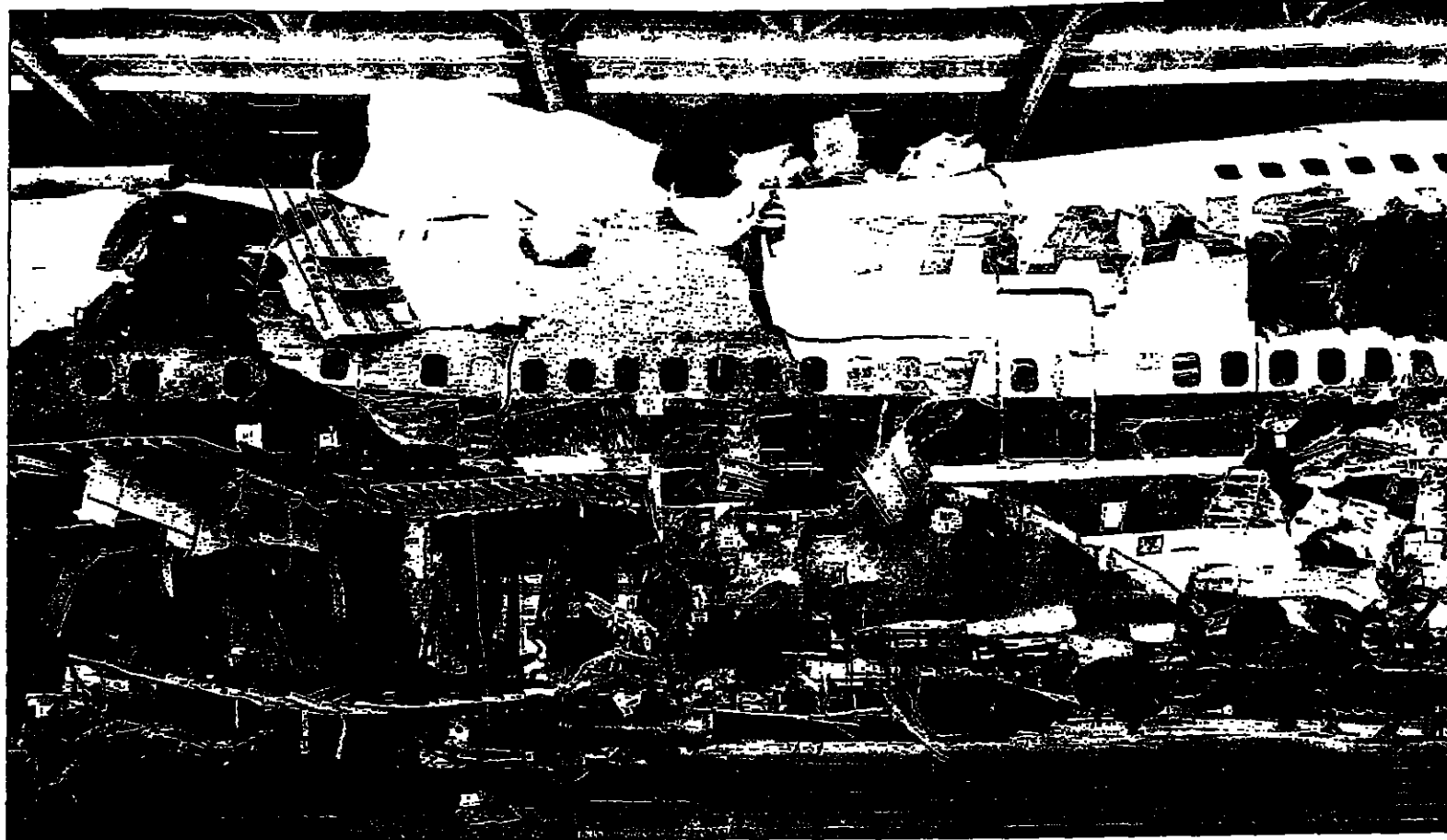
And yet, as those most closely touched by the catastrophe - relatives and friends of the 230 who perished, Navy divers and rescue workers - gather over the next few days for memorial and remembrance services here, the balm of what grief counsellors might call "closure" is still missing.

It is a continuing mystery that also offers cause for unease for all of us. Until we understand what befell the plane, how can we know what we should be doing to stop it happening again?

Some progress has been made but none of it is especially reassuring. The earliest assumptions pointed to sabotage. In a country just recovering from the Oklahoma bombing and the attack three years earlier on the World Trade Center, to incline that way was not surprising. There was the simple bomb theory, spurred by memories of Lockerbie. More exotic was the notion that the climbing aircraft had been ripped open by a surface-to-air missile. Now, however, those scenarios are fading, principally because of the absence of any evidence of an incendiary explosion among all the parts of the plane recovered.

The FBI only recently admitted that it has almost exhausted its leads and will probably conclude its part of the inquiry in two to three months. That points to the other, perhaps more worrying, conclusion: that the aircraft, which was 25 years old and a veritable pensioner among commercial jets still flying, suffered some mechanical mishap.

For months the focus of the mechanical investigation has



Jigsaw of death: Part of the Boeing's fuselage, reconstructed in a Long Island hangar from some 700 fragments over a period of two months. Investigators are still at a loss

Photograph: Reuters

may be far-reaching, especially if age is determined to have been a factor. Of all the jet aircraft built, 80 per cent are still in service, many flying beyond their original life expectancies.

"Boeing and other manufacturers are claiming that as long as you properly maintain them you can run these planes for ever," said Vernon Gross, a former official of the National Transportation Safety Board. "That's a joke."

Even now, a legacy of the crash is forming. Spurred by the early sabotage theories, the government has begun putting in place new security arrangements at airports, including a requirement that bags always travel on the same aircraft as their owners. New procedures have also been designed to provide better support for friends and relatives bereaved when accidents occur.

As frustration with the length of the investigation grows, it is worth noting that solving such crashes is rarely easy. It is nearly three years, for instance, since a USAir 737 plunged into woods close to Pittsburgh, killing all on board. The investigation is still going on.

been the central fuel tank. It is now thought certain the plane broke into pieces when the tank, which was nearly empty at the time of the crash, exploded. What, though, sparked that explosion? Experts this week began test flights out of JFK using a 747 of similar vintage to the one that crashed and which has been laced with 150 sensors to measure conditions on board.

Most importantly, they will monitor variations of temperature and movement in the fuel tank to understand how much energy would have been needed to cause an ignition. A variety of possible causes

are under scrutiny, ranging from sparks perhaps created by chafed wires connected to a fuel pump to, more improbably, the creation of an electro-magnetic field by passengers turning on devices like lap-top computers. Investigators also want to study the role played by air-conditioning units adjacent to the tank in heating the fuel vapours inside it.

If a culprit is identified, the consequences for the industry

may be far-reaching, especially if age is determined to have been a factor. Of all the jet aircraft built, 80 per cent are still in service, many flying beyond their original life expectancies.

Bosnia force fears reprisals

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent

International peace-keepers in Bosnia were on guard against a Bosnian Serb terrorist offensive after three attacks yesterday. A US soldier was attacked with a sickle, and grenades were thrown at police monitors and a UN worker.

The international stabilisation force (S-For) moved against war-crimes suspects last week, arresting one and killing another who resisted, provoking protests from the Bosnian Serbs and Russia. On Sunday a bomb went off in Zvornik, which S-For dismissed as an "isolated incident".

"It's still too early to tie these incidents together", said UN international police spokesman Linn McDowell. But the grenade attacks occurred in Banja Luka and Prijedor, in north-west Bosnia where British S-For troops shot war-crimes suspect Simo Drlicja and seized Milan Kovacic before taking him to face trial in the Hague.

The US soldier was attacked in Kladanj, a Serb-held town on the boundary between the Bosnian Serb "republic" and the Muslim-Croat federation. He was attacked from behind by a man wielding a sickle, and received treatment for a gash in the shoulder. Earlier in the day a hand grenade exploded near the house of UN employee in Prijedor, where Drlicja had been chief of police. On Tuesday another grenade exploded outside an apartment block in nearby Banja Luka, the second city of Serb-held Bosnia, housing officials of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The first sign of Bosnian Serb retaliation against the international presence was on Sunday, night when a bomb damaged OSCE offices and vehicles in Zvornik, on the eastern side of Bosnia. Although the UN maintains yesterday's attacks were also isolated incidents, the possibility remains that a campaign is being orchestrated.



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Stand-off: Police and protesters scuffle in Hong Kong outside the Legislative Council building, where the Chinese-appointed provisional legislature yesterday struck down a clutch of labour-rights laws. Photograph: AFP

Biggest ever reform of UN bureaucracy

David Osborne
New York

Unveiling the most ambitious package of internal reforms ever attempted by the United Nations, the Secretary General, Kofi Annan, pledged yesterday to unshackle the organisation from its worst bureaucratic excesses and to help it to rediscover its fundamental goals of lifting up the poor and fostering peace.

In a long-awaited presentation to the UN member states in New York, the Secretary General offered multiple measures and proposals – some that can be enacted at once by his own authority and others that will require governmental approval – that will touch almost every corner of the sprawling organisation. “Starting today,” he declared, “we begin a quiet revolution in the United Nations”.

‘Quiet revolution’ is aimed at a return to basic values

Included are radical steps to redesign the leadership structure at the head of the UN Secretariat itself, with for instance, the creation of a new post of Deputy Secretary General, and measures to yoke together the numerous, often competing, UN agencies that work in the field in developing countries. Mr Annan is also upgrading activities on disarmament and on combating terrorism and the drugs trade.

The package represents an acknowledgement by the UN of its own shortcomings in efficiency and effectiveness that have increasingly been criticised by an often disappointed and frustrated membership. It is also an attempt to reverse a slide in popular support for the

UN's work. It was largely on that platform that Mr Annan, a Ghanaian, was elected to replace Boutros Boutros Ghali at the start of the year.

But anyone looking for Mr Annan to transform the UN overnight will be disappointed. His proposals bear the hallmarks of composition by a committee pulled in several directions.

Looming over the entire process is the continuing financial crisis at the organisation and the battle to persuade the United States to pay arrears amounting to some \$1.5bn (£1bn). Tucked into Mr Annan's is a proposal certain to be rejected by Britain and other countries to create a \$1bn revolving credit fund on which the UN could draw while the absence of proper payment from Washington endures.

As delegations began digesting the 95-page report, some offered early support. “It takes us several steps forward,” said Britain's deputy ambassador, Stephen Gommersall. “We welcome in particular the clear focus on the objectives of the organisation and a more effective and integrated management.”

Changes in management structure include the establishment of executive committees for four central areas of the organisation's work: peace and security, economic and social affairs, development operations and humanitarian affairs. Ensuring co-ordination between these groups will be a new Senior Management Group that will act as a government-style cabinet for the Secretary General. The Deputy Secretary General would be in charge at headquarters during the frequent trips abroad of Mr Annan.

UN officials emphasised in particular the steps being taken in the field to oblige all UN-affiliated bodies working in a country to operate under a single UN flag, under one UN country representative and out of one “UN House”. The new arrangements are to be pioneered with immediate effect in South Africa.

The reforms will trigger a protracted game of musical chairs. Three economic and social departments in New York are to be merged into one, for example. In Geneva, the Centre for Human Rights will be folded into the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The post of Commissioner, recently assigned to Irish President Mary Robinson, will be strengthened. New offices and senior posts will also be created for the anti-crime and the disarmament operations.

In his recommendations for additional action by governments, Mr Annan also urged the creation of a commission to study the usefulness of the some specialised UN agencies, ranging, for example, from the World Health Organisation to the three UN agricultural agencies all based in Rome. Some diplomats murmured disappointment, however, that he was not more forthright in identifying candidates for extinction.

Anticipating some criticism that he may have been overcautious, the Secretary General told reporters: “I think my proposals are bold, but they are not suicidal. I consider them bold, although others may not.” Among those hoping for more will be some Republicans in Capitol Hill.

He also moved swiftly to staunch controversy certain to be stirred by his proposals for the revolving credit fund, insisting that something – anything – had to be done to end the UN's permanent state of near-bankruptcy.

to hell with it,
that'll do



come on,
it was pretty tight



I didn't want to
scuff the wheels, actually



sorry?

WOW! and only four attempts!



no, I think you did really well. even with
power steering the conditions were very testing

o.k. see you later then



if I'm not at the kerb in 15 minutes,
go on without me



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Britain puts aid pressure on Jakarta regime

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

Britain will today fail to renew an annual pledge of aid to Indonesia, in a move which will please human rights activists and Labour backbenchers, but which risks creating further tension with the government in Jakarta.

The occasion is the annual meeting in Tokyo of the Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI), a convocation of governments and international organisations which meets under the auspices of the World Bank to co-ordinate aid policy to Jakarta. In the past, Britain has joined other donors in using the occasion to announce the amount of aid which it intends to give to Indonesia in the following year. But today, British officials will make no such pledge, to the surprise of some other foreign diplomats.

Under the direction of Clare Short, the Minister for International Development, British policy is undergoing a comprehensive review aimed at ensuring that aid goes directly to the poorest.

At the same time, Indonesian dissidents and activists, together with British backbench MPs, are pressing for a suspension of aid to Jakarta on account of its poor human rights record.

In 1995 Britain pledged £96.6m at the CGI and last year the figure was £13m. Officials play down the significance of the annual variations, pointing out that long-term aid contracts made by the Conservative government will be fully honoured by Labour until they expire. But it seems clear that the large-scale projects supported by the Tories, including power stations and a controversial police training programme, are things of the past.

In a written answer to a parliamentary question on Tuesday, Ms Short said: “Our existing support for sustainable forestry in Indonesia is likely to continue, with increased emphasis on benefits to poor people living in forest areas. We shall be looking for opportunities to support local non-governmental organisations in East Timor and if possible projects supporting trade unions in Indonesia.”

Indonesia reacts very sensitively to anything it perceives as interference in its internal affairs, and one diplomat predicted that Britain's failure to make a pledge would be taken badly by Jakarta. At the end of last month, the Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas, threatened to stop buying arms from Britain if the Government attached conditions concerning human rights.

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How to
took
to
bes

When France dis...

health check

صكرا من الامم

How the French took their time to like to be beside the sea

Joanne Lee
Paris

Until the middle of the last century it was not the chic Parisian bourgeoisie who headed for the coast to enjoy the pleasures of the sea, sun and sand but tramps, hunchbacks, the lame, deformed and generally undesirable, according to Flaubert. The French tended to consider their beaches as wild, barren and rather dull, and certainly not a place to be spotted by any fellow members of the *haute société*. They were a far cry from the chic and exclusive resorts of St Tropez, Cannes and Biarritz of

The joys of sun and sand were slow to catch on across the Channel

today, where holidaymakers are rarely averse to being spotted. Our desire to strip down to next to nothing whenever we get the chance, and indulge in bodily pleasures of sea, sun and sand is all explained and illustrated at the exhibition of photographs, sketches, cartoons

and collages, called "Vacances A La Mer" (holidays at the seaside) at the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

The exhibition traces the development of the seaside culture in France, beginning with a delightful set of sketches showing 19th-century French families at the beach, obviously not yet aware of the pleasures of a trip to the seaside, and suffering considerably. Another sketch shows a woman who refuses to go into a beach hut to change because she is worried that she'll come out looking like the tramp just next to her.

The seaside became more attractive to the French as they became aware of the benefits to health of a stroll along the beach or an afternoon spent in a deckchair breathing in the fresh sea air. However, the idea of spending a holiday or even a whole day at the seaside only really took off when people began swimming in the sea and the expensive resorts of the South of France, as well as those in Normandy and Brittany began to attract large numbers.

The introduction of paid holidays in 1936 and the development of trade unions also encouraged the build-up of more affordable seaside resorts.

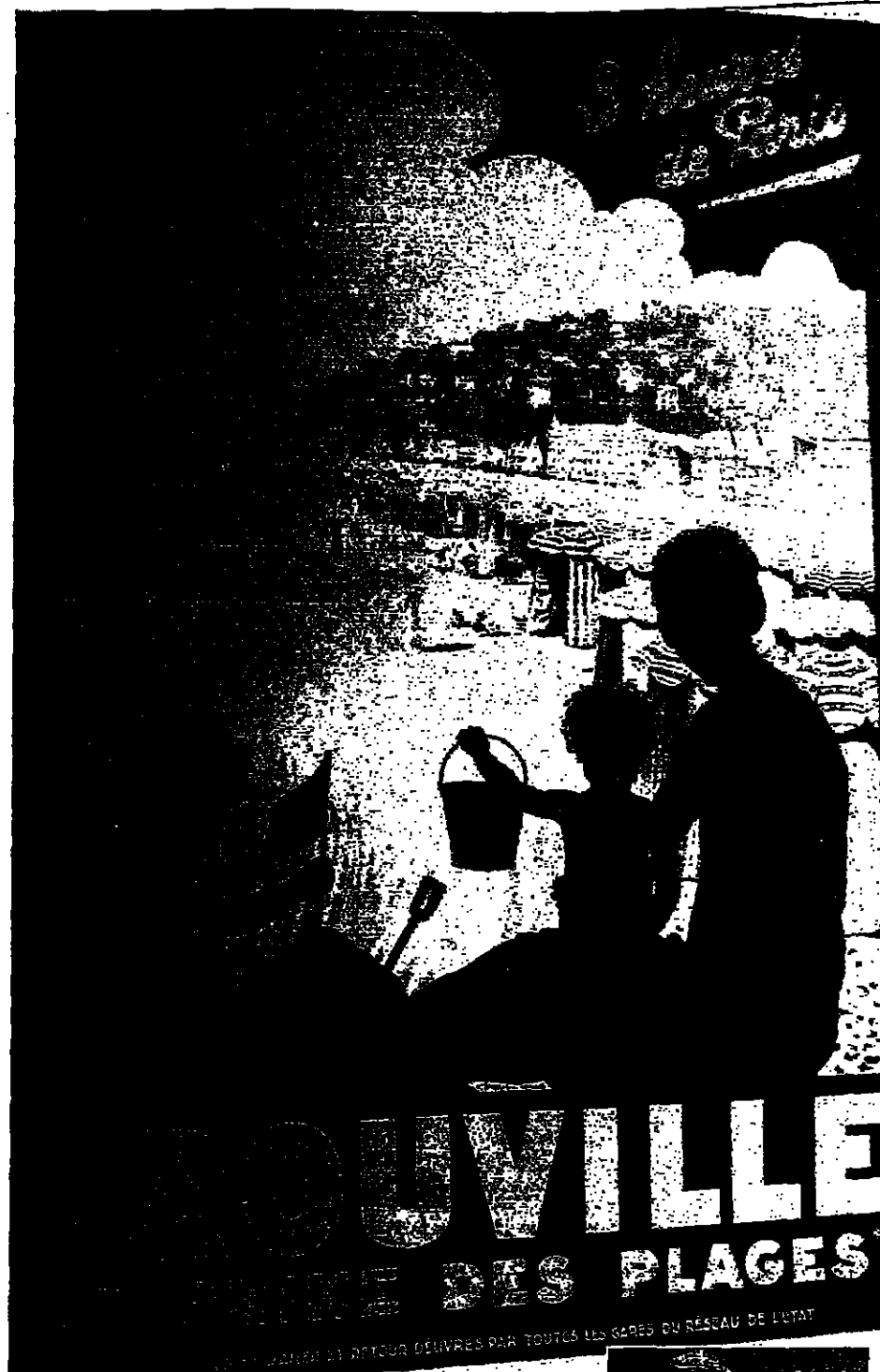
By 1964 one in three of French holidaymakers chose to go to the beach.

As fashions changed and it became more acceptable to reveal all, or at least nearly all, so people could go to the beach in suitable dress; sunbathing, swimming and playing games became altogether more enjoyable pastimes and of course this step forward opened the door for the creation of beach fashion.

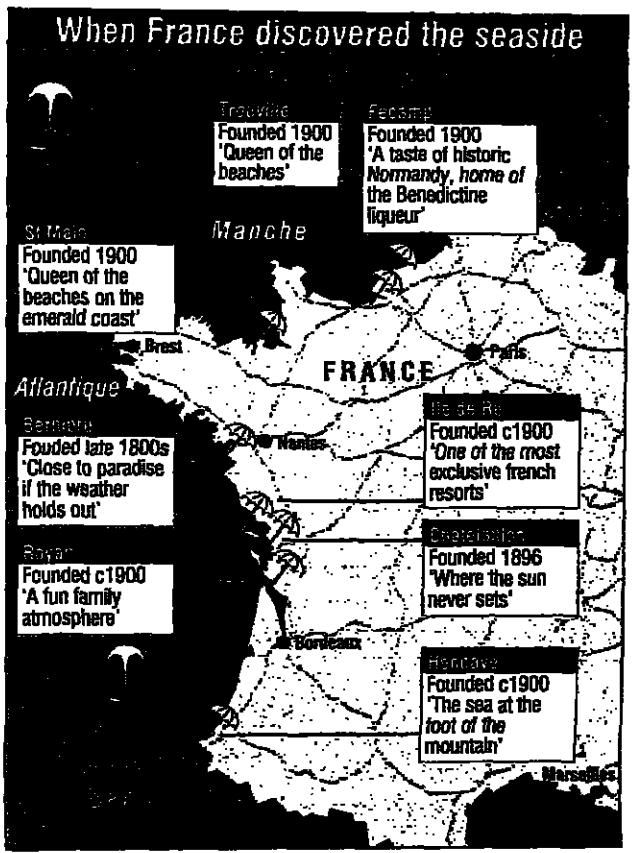
However, the creation of the swimming costume posed some serious problems. Those concerned with health were

adamant that it must be white, as any other colour was considered bad for the skin. However, as the wet T-shirt competition has shown us all, when wet, white tends to become transparent. The final solution was the stripe, based on the navy uniform, and a compromise between the health-conscious and the modest. The stripe became the universal beach design, spreading from France to Britain and Belgium and across Europe. Eventually not only was it

used on swimming costumes, but also to decorate anything from tents to parasols to beach balls and swimming bags. Not until the 1970s and 1980s has it begun to be replaced by designs influenced by Asian, African and Caribbean countries. The exhibition follows the discovery of the joys and pleasures of the sea, sun and sand. But ends with a sobering sculpture of a family in the 1990s who go for a dip in the sea, only to discover that their feet dissolve on contact with the water.



Life's a beach: Trouville's delights (above), and the sort of seaside headgear (right) that was popular around 1900



significant shorts

Embattled Moi tries to talk way out of trouble

Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi agreed to meet opposition leaders next week, stepping up dialogue in the face of protests by groups demanding constitutional reforms. But leaders of an opposition-backed campaign for reforms said Mr Moi's talks with the leader of the opposition in parliament yesterday and religious leaders on Tuesday were not enough to prompt them to abandon their plans to pressure the President.

Reuters - Nairobi

New Ukraine PM squeaks in

Parliament approved President Leonid Kuchma's nominee for prime minister by a single vote, a reflection of the economically crippling conflict between the president and the legislature. Valery Pustovoitenko squeaked through the Verkhovna Rada with 226 votes, a simple majority in the 450-seat chamber and the lowest possible amount needed to secure approval. There were 91 votes against him and 26 abstentions.

AP - Kiev

Mobutu said to be near death

A former Zairean government official once loyal to exiled President Mobutu Sese Seko says the deposed dictator is near death with only months to live. Abagho Tutu, former general administrator of security services under the Mobutu regime, told state television that he had been with Mr Mobutu since the leader and his entourage fled their homeland, then called Zaire, in May. He remained with Mr Mobutu in Morocco until returning home on Monday. Mr Mobutu has prostate cancer.

AP - Kinshasa

Thumbs-down for peace

Palestinians' support for the peace process with Israel continues to drop, according to a poll. Seventy-one per cent of the 1,197 Palestinians questioned said their opinion of the peace process had worsened since last year, while only 7.5 per cent said it improved. The tracking poll was conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre.

AP - Jerusalem

ETA rally banned

The Basque regional government said it was barring the separatist guerrilla group, ETAs political wing from going ahead with a demonstration on Saturday for fear it would turn violent. Millions of Spaniards have protested peacefully against ETA and its political wing Herri Batasuna in outrage at the killing of a young politician at the weekend but there have also been sporadic attacks on ETA sympathisers.

Reuters - Madrid

HK to ease bar on children

Peking and Hong Kong agreed to let more mainland-born children into the territory but Hong Kong Immigration Director Regina Ipsaid the two sides had not agreed on the size of the increase.

Reuters - Hong Kong

Towering inconvenience

A surprise employees' strike closed the Eiffel Tower. It was called to protest at the sacking of an employee who manhandled a British woman tourist who tried to get out of a lift as the doors were about to close.

Reuters - Paris

Vikings ahoy

Adventurers trying to re-create the voyage of Leif Ericsson to the New World have been bedevilled by problems he never dreamed of but said they were ready to set sail. The 12-man crew wants to travel in the same kind of boat Ericsson used 1,000

AP - Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

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obituaries / gazette

Professor Michael Jaffé

As Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, for 17 years, from 1973 to 1990, Michael Jaffé will be remembered above all for his tireless policy of acquisition: not just of the great paintings which he rescued from the threat of foreign purchase – Van Dyck's *Virgin and Child*, Stubbs's *Ginny* and Renoir's *La Place Clichy* – but of innumerable other works large and small, all of top quality and interest, from many historical periods and in many media.

This rich haul, to which was added a steady flow of bequests and endowments, was achieved largely by Jaffé's energy, taste and persuasiveness, backed by the good will of such bodies as *Heritage and National Art Collections Fund*.

Under Jaffé the Fitzwilliam's collections were rehoused and redisplayed. The entrance hall was transformed into a spectacular gallery of early 19th-century sculpture. The museum's extension, after 12 years' building, was officially opened in 1975, and a greatly expanded programme of public exhibitions began, including shows specifically planned to the City of Cambridge's Summer Festival.

Michael Jaffé came up to King's College, Cambridge, as a scholar in 1945, after four years' service in the RNVR, and immediately entered into the spirit of Cambridge life. He became President of the Marlowe Society, and edited the *Granta*. He read History and then English, obtained a First, but also attended the lectures of the Slade Professor of Fine Art, and was a constant visitor to the Fitzwilliam.

After Cambridge, his professional interest in the visual arts was focused by the classic Courtauld experience. Johannes Wilde's lectures and student access to the Seilern Collection, and later again by research at Harvard on Rubens and his contemporaries.

In the early 1950s Nikolaus Pevsner was making Cambridge itself more conducive to education in the visual arts. Jaffé became a Fellow of King's in 1952, and as Cambridge's only Assistant Lecturer in Fine Arts, from 1956, he began undergraduate teaching in the subject, including memorable classes in the Fitzwilliam.

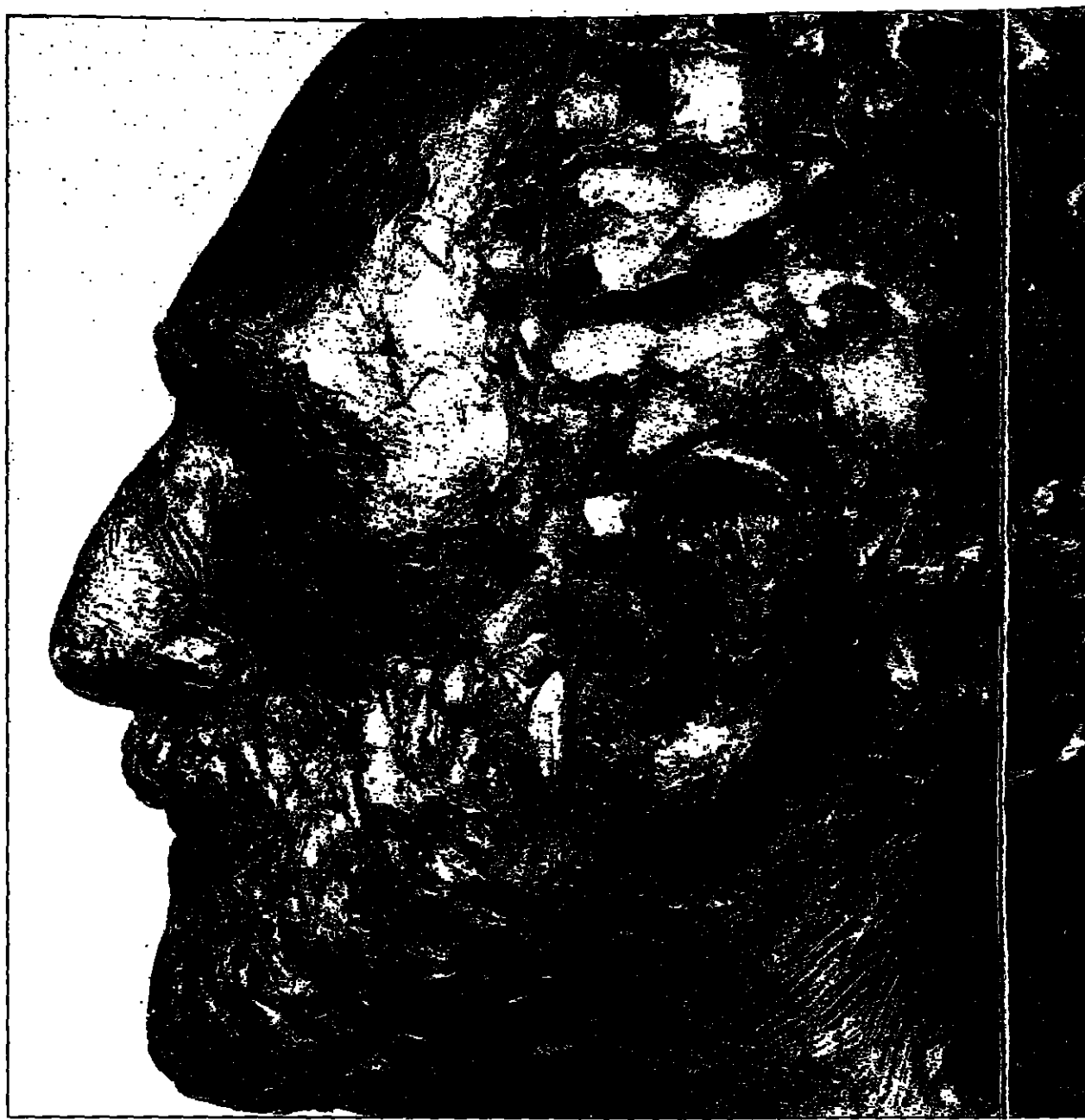
His own ideas in the 1950s about the scope of art education were inchoate, ambitious and idealistic. His forceful personality began more and more to control his immediate environment; striking evidence of this was the still controversial decision of his college in 1961 to recast the east end of the chapel in order to accommodate Major Alnatt's altarpiece by Rubens. Jaffé's academic interest, strongly supported by interested spectators such as Ernst Gombrich and Francis Wormald, became a reality in 1961 with the introduction of a Part II in the History of Art. From that time on, Cambridge produced a stream of art historians, curators, art dealers and critics, all stamped by Jaffé's standards and commitment.

In the 1960s he published substantial books on Van Dyck, Rubens and Jordaens. His educational vision, fired by frequent visits to the United States, was to place Cambridge University's art collections at the centre of the activities of the Teaching Department, with a Curator-Professor in control. Had Jaffé succeeded Carl Winter as Director of the Fitzwilliam in 1967 it is just possible that a creative merger of the interests of the Teaching Department and the museum staff might have been achieved.

The continuing success of the department was endorsed by the university through Jaffé's personal Readership in 1968, and the crucial decision to establish Art History as an independent department, with Jaffé as its Head, in 1970.

His formal connection with the policy-making of the Fitzwilliam began with his appointment as a Syndic, under the chairmanship of Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, in 1971. On David Piper's move to Oxford in 1973 Jaffé attained the Directorship, together with a personal Chair in the History of Western Art. Although he could not continue to be Head of the Teaching Department, his concern for the success of art-historical training in Cambridge remained a priority.

But other pressing factors intervened. Economic constraint was beginning to effect development in the university and the university's art museum. The be-



Hard work and singleness of purpose: Jaffé portrayed by Elisabeth Frink in 1992

quest by Hamilton Kerr of the Mill House, Whitlifford, with a considerable endowment, offered Jaffé an opportunity to expand the museum's functions. By a stroke of genius he recognised the chance, in Cambridge and Whitlifford, to implement the 1972 recommendation of the Gulbenkian Foundation for the establishment in Great Britain of an institute for training in the conservation of paintings. The important national and international achievements of the Hamilton Kerr Institute, a sub-department of the museum, were celebrated in an exhibition of its work at the Fitzwilliam in 1988.

In spite of his constant, resilient, Jaffé felt keenly frustrated by lack of funds, especially from the Government, to support the work of the museum as he now saw it, as an institution "of at least national importance". Fighting for the Fitzwilliam's practical and pub-

lic needs certainly took toll of his original ideal of the unity of purpose of the museum and the university Teaching Department. He had little time in his later years for teaching undergraduates, although his genuine belief in the importance of art education found expression in encouraging schoolchildren to tour the museum.

In the late 1980s Jaffé realistically embraced the need to publicise the Fitzwilliam, with the establishment of the Fitzwilliam Museum Trust, and by major touring exhibitions of Fitzwilliam treasures in Japan and the US.

After retiring as Director in 1990 he continued his scholarly work on Rubens; and in 1994 he published four volumes on the collection of Italian drawings at Chatsworth. The October 1991 issue of the *Burlington Magazine* contained essays written as a tribute to him by some of his friends, presided by an

editorial which eloquently touched off his achievements.

Michael Jaffé's manner and sentiments were sometimes consciously dismissive, but everyone respected his hard work and singleness of purpose, and many knew him to be a loyal and considerate friend. Although Cambridge, and King's, and the Fitzwilliam were his natural environment, he was also wholly himself in his splendid house in Somerset, Clifton Maybank, where he fulfilled other ideals, as private collector, landowner, and lavish discerning host.

Though dogged in his later years by ill-health, he coped with this in characteristically indomitable fashion. He had the benefit of a happy family life, centred upon his wife Pat, a strong personality and socially. Michael Jaffé was distinguished in appearance. It is pleasing that a bronze portrait bust

of him by Elisabeth Frink is in the Fitzwilliam, as a physical reminder of a remarkable man.

G. D. S. Henderson

Andrew Michael Jaffé, art historian and curator; born 3 June 1923; Fellow, King's College, Cambridge 1952-97; Assistant Lecturer in Fine Arts, Cambridge University 1956-60; Lecturer 1961-68; Reader in History of Western Art 1968-73; Head of Department of History of Art 1970-73; Professor of the History of Western Art 1973-90 (Emeritus); Professor of Renaissance Art, Washington University 1960-61; Director, Fitzwilliam Museum 1973-88; (Emeritus); CBC 1989; author of *Van Dyck's Artwork*, Sketchbook 1966, Rubens 1967, Jordaens 1968, Rubens and Italy 1977, Rubens: catalogue complete 1988; editor of *The Burlington Collection of Italian Drawings* 1964; married 1964 Patricia Milne-Henderson (two sons, two daughters); died 17 July 1997.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst

George Hardinge was obsessively interested in "whodunnits" and brought to the publishing of a genre which many publishers found faintly *déclassé*. When in July each year William Collins's most successful and prolific author, Agatha Christie, used to deliver her new manuscript in order that the firm could announce a "Christie for Christmas" – with almost unfailing regularity and ever-increasing profitability – no one at the office had thought it necessary or even right to read the script before despatching it on the overnight train to Glasgow for composition on Collins's Cathedral Street monotype keyboards and casters.

Hardinge wrote excellent detailed reports on the new Christies, and indeed dozens of "Crime Club" novels by other only slightly less distinguished authors – H.R.F. Keating, Julian Symonds, Francis Iles. He could spot a flaw in plotting however small and to his authors he became not merely a tough campaigner for their rights within the firm, but their guarantor of quality.

George Hardinge came of a formidably achieving family. His grandfather, the first Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, was Viceroy of India, his grandmother the wife of another statesman, Viscount Milner. His father was Private Secretary to two Kings – Edward VIII and George VI – while his mother was a leading light in Moral Re-Armament. None of this was much help to George, who was to discover skills and services he could render – to authors – of a more private sort.

Educated at Eton and the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, he served with distinction in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. During his active service he was torpedoed not once, but three times. He remained in the Navy after the war but his career path changed when two friends of his, Mark Bonham Carter and Peter Wyld, introduced him to Billy Collins – then examining and moderating Collins's general book publishing programme.

Hardinge proved a better publisher than Bonham Carter and Wyld and found his niche



Hardinge: conspiratorial Photograph: UPPA

when the senior editor, Fred Smith, who had founded the Crime Club 25 years earlier, reluctantly ceded control of it to the gilded youth from the Navy.

Apart from the crime list he edited many other authors, mostly novelists, and brought needed new talent into the firm. One such was Richard Mason, whose second novel, *The World of Suzie Wong* (1957), three years later to become a famous film, had been turned down by Hodders on moral grounds – a decision later regretted. Hodders had published Mason's *The Wind Cannot Read* (1947), which was one of the outstanding novels of the im-

mediate post-war period, but found the golden-hearted where theme too louche for their standing in the lending-library market. Hardinge had to work hard to prove to the chairman that Suzie Wong was worth backing and its eventual success consolidated his successful rise as Collins's best editor of novels.

Hardinge used to say that his endurance in the war were tame compared to what went on at Collins in the 1950s. Later he wrote up some of the firm's more questionable activities in a collaborative project to recreate the world of Billy Collins in book form; a project which was never completed, but from which Collins's then publicity manager, Alan Maclean, has drawn for his own memoir, *No I Tell a Lie, It Was the Tuesday*, to be published by Kyle Cathie in September.

While still at Collins he published his own contribution to the Crime Club lists, *Stately Home* (1953), under the pseudonym George Milner. This was followed in due course by other crime novels, some with a fishing background. Hardinge was a keen and expert fly fisherman but did not publish a book about this until 1976: *An Incomplete Angler*.

Perhaps there was something incomplete about him. He had married Jan Balfour in 1944 and they had three sons to whom they were both devoted. They lived an active social life near Robertsbridge, were friends of the Muggersidge and the Edwards Crankshaws, invited office colleagues and spouses for weekends – spent not only playing bridge and "convey" swimming, golf, but with long silent periods (common to many publishers) reading typescript and the missions from frontiers. But the marriage ended in 1962 and Jan died tragically eight years later. Hardinge had by then remarried.

Billy Collins fought hard to keep him in the firm but he moved to Macmillan, where he continued for another 20 years to build his reputation as the trade's most effective commercial middlebrow publisher. One of his best authors was Edith Pargeter (writing as Elsie Peters), whose interlocking of modern detective theory with the medieval world produced a brilliantly atmospheric and well-plotted series. When he retired from Macmillan he assisted Tim Hely Hutchinson in setting up Headline (later to become Hodder Headline) by bringing a stable of experienced and professional authors to provide ballast as a key moment.

George Hardinge had a great gift for friendship. We had worked together in Collins in the 1950s and continued to meet mostly to discuss the inquiry of publishers from then until, barely three months ago, the last Old Collins Club lunch took place at Beoty's at which Hardinge was present – immaculate, superbly turned out, handsome, with a full head of hair, a beaky nose, a conspiratorial manner and some excellent gossip.

Robin Deanston

George Edward Charles Hardinge, publisher and author; born 31 October 1921; succeeded 1960 as third Baron Hardinge of Penshurst; senior editor, Macmillan 1968-86; married 1944 Jan Balfour (died 1970); three sons; marriage dissolved 1962; 1966 Margaret Beise (née Jerrum; one son, one stepson); died Bechill-on-Sea, Sussex 14 July 1997.

Joseph Saxby

The world of early music has been dealt a double blow with the deaths of Joseph Saxby and Carl Dolmetsch within just over two weeks. Saxby had been principal harpsichordist at the Haslemere Festival for 60 years and a partner to Carl Dolmetsch in duo recitals which took them all over the world.

Saxby was born in London in 1910, the son of the celebrated Russian violinist Michael Zacharewitsch, who, at the age of 12, had played the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the composer conducting. His mother was Joan Saxby, an American, and it was her name that he adopted in order to avoid confusion with his father.

He first appeared on the concert platform as his father's accompanist when he was still in his teens and entered the

Royal College of Music in 1927 under Hubert Fryer for piano and composition as his second study. He went on to achieve considerable success as a soloist and accompanist and played for the famous Irish tenor John McCormack on his farewell tour.

It was in 1932 at the Oxford Playhouse that Saxby first met Carl Dolmetsch and his sister Nathalie when they formed a baroque trio to provide incidental music for a Shakespeare production. The experience inspired Saxby to turn to the harpsichord and he subsequently studied with Arnold Dolmetsch, Carl's father and founder of the Haslemere Festival. This was the beginning of a friendship and musical partnership which was to last for over 60 years. "The Dolmetschs are my family," he said.

Dolmetsch and Saxby undertook 49 international tours and gave 42 Wigmore Hall recitals. Saxby first appeared at the Haslemere Festival in 1938 playing the Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No 5* and appeared in every subsequent concert until he retired at the age of 80.

Saxby moved to Haslemere after the Second World War and soon became an established local figure. He entered into the life of the town with enthusiasm, playing the piano accompaniment at the annual pantomime, put on by the local amateur dramatic society; he was also available for any charitable cause, which he undertook as if it were an important professional engagement. He was, admittedly, a showman, but always in the best of taste. Each year at the Haslemere Festival, after having

played an intricate solo suite with great virtuosity, he would rise, bow, and, with an impossibly smile, give a sweeping gesture as if to say, "It was nothing."

Saxby was not only a fine musician but a charming, ebullient and lovable man with a wicked twinkle in his eye which captivated all who knew him. His puns were legendary and his sense of humour equally so, but not always complimentary. A story is told about a time when he was chatting to friends in the street and an ambulance screamed past. In a flash, Saxby remarked: "It reminds me of a soprano I once accompanied."

Margaret Campbell

Joseph Michael Zacharewitsch (Joseph Saxby), pianist; born London 3 January 1910; died Haslemere, Surrey 25 June 1997.



Saxby, left, with Carl Dolmetsch Photograph: Lebrecht Collection

DEATHS

CHAPMAN: (Morphy) Fullbeck, peacefully on 14 July, aged 79 years. George Thomas Lick, dear husband of the late Kay, much-loved father of Angela, Michael and Richard, and father-in-law of Sheila and Lesley. Also a devoted grandfather of Heidi, Kate and Jonathan. Funeral service on Wednesday 23 July at Howard Road Methodist Church, at 10am, followed by cremation at Cwpen Crematorium at 11am. Friends please meet at church. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu if desired to Save the Children Fund, c/o Jacob Canny & Son, Funeral Directors, Laurel House, Oldgate, Morpeth, Northumberland NE41 1PV.

JAFFÉ: Michael, on 13 July, at home, after long illness, aged 74. Private funeral for family and close friends. Memorial service in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, during Michaelmas term (date to be announced). No flowers but donations in his memory to National Art Collections Fund (0171-225 4800) or to British Heritage Foundation (14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH).

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

YORKER: David. Funeral service at St Andrew's Church, Stirling, on Thursday 22 July, at 3pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh give a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Princess Alexandra also attends. Princess Margaret, President, the Royal Ballet, attends a performance by the Royal Ballet School at Holland Park, Open Air Theatre, London W8. The Duke of Gloucester visits the East of England Show, Peterborough; and, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, takes the salute at the Royal Tournament, Epsom Court Ex-

Births, Marriages & Deaths

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MERCHANT: Mervyn. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Professor The Rev Mervyn Merchant will be held at All Saints' Church, The Parade, Leamington Spa, at 2pm, Saturday 26 July 1997. It is hoped that as many of his friends and former students as possible will wish to attend. For further details contact his daughter, Christina Shaw, on 0113 225 7210 or his son, Paul Merchant, c/o Arden House, 1820 Clarendon Square, Leamington Spa CV32 5QT telephone 01926 426695.

Announcements for genuine BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Edition, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-233 2012 or fax to 0171-233 2010, and are charged at £6.99 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a telephone number.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Read provided by the Colonel-in-Chief.

Birthdays

Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker, 88; Mr Richard Barker, former Headmaster, Sevenoaks School, 58; Mr Tim Brooke-Taylor, actor, 57; Mr Mark Burgess, cricketer, 53; Miss Diana Carroll, actress and singer, 62; Sir Alan Cottrell, former Master, Jesus College, Cambridge, 78; Miss Phyllis Diller, comedienne and concert pianist, 90; Mr Patrick Egan, former chairman, Fisons, 67; Mr William Etherington MP, 56; Mr Ray Gallon, scriptwriter, 67; Baroness Gardner of Parkes, dental surgeon, 70; Mr W. Gordon Graham, publisher, 77; Mr Eric Hammond, trade union leader, 68; Mr John Harper, former deputy managing director, British Telecom, 67; Sir William Henderson, microbiologist, 84; Sir William Heseltine, former Private Secretary to the Queen, 67; Lord Lane, former Lord Chief Justice of England, 79; The Right Rev David Lunn, Bishop of Sheffield, 67; Lord Patten, former MP, 52; Dr Marjorie Reeves, historian, 92; Mr Andrew Robertson MP, 46; Mr Peter Sissons, television presenter and newscaster, 55; Mr Wayne Sleep, dancer and choreographer, 49; Lt-Col Sir Blair Stewart-Wilson, an extra equerry to the Queen, 68; Sir Kenneth Stowe, former senior civil servant, 70; Mr Donald Sutherland, actor, 62; Mr Bob Taylor, cricketer, 56; Sir David West-Russell, former judge and president of Industrial Tribunals, 76; Mr RDV Wilkes, Headmaster, Cheltenham College, 56; Mr Terrell Wyatt, chairman, W.S. Atkins Ltd., 70.

Anniversaries

Births: John Jacob Astor, fur trader and merchant, 1763; Hippolyte-

Paul Delaroche, painter, 1797; Johan August Södermann, composer, 1830; Eric Stanley Gurney, novelist and creator of "Perry Mason", 1889; Adam Smith, political economist and writer, 1709; Charlotte Corday, murderer of Marat, executed 1793; Charles Gray, second Earl Grey, statesman, 1845; James Abbott McNeill Whistler, painter, 1903; Billie Holiday (Eleanora Holiday), jazz singer, 1930. On this day: The Hundred Years' War ended after the defeat of the English at Cressley 1453; the magazine *Punch* was first published, 1841; George Phillips Bond, astronomer, made the first photograph of a star, 1850; Disneyland opened in California, 1955. Today is the Feast Day of St Clement of Okrida and his Companions, St Enochus, St Kenelm, St Leo IV, Pope, St Marcellina, St Norica Landgravi, The Seven Apostles of Bulgaria, St Speratus and his Companions, The Carmelite Martyrs of Compiègne and The Martyrs of Scillium.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Sleep" (W) an introduction to the exhibition, 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Searight, "Medieval Crafts: ceramics", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Michael Rowner talks about her work, 6.30pm (tickets required). British Museum: Beth McKillop, "Korean Books and Manuscripts", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Robin Muir, "An Introduction to Clifford Coffin", 1.10pm.

Newspaper article was contempt of court

Attorney General v Morgan and others; Attorney General v News Group Newspapers Ltd; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Asplin) 15 July 1997

Publication by a newspaper of an article, arising out of an investigation by one of its reporters whom it must have been realised would be a witness at the subsequent trial, asserting that named persons were guilty of criminal offences and referring to their criminal backgrounds, was a contempt of court. The reporter should not, however, have been cross-examined about his conduct in relation to the article upon an application to stay the criminal proceedings.

The Divisional Court allowed the Attorney General's application under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 in relation to an article published in the *News of the World* on 11 September 1994, but found that there had been no contempt in the publication of an article in the same newspaper on 27 August 1995. David Pannick QC and Mark Shaw (Treasury Solicitor) for the Attorney General; Andrew Caldecott QC (counsel) for the respondents.

LAW REPORT

17 July 1997

Lord Justice Pill said that the Attorney General had submitted that, applying the strict liability rule in section 2(2) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, both articles created a substantial risk that the course of justice in the proceedings in question would be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

The first application was based on an article entitled "We smash £100m fake dash ring". Magher Mahmood, a *News of the World* reporter, had uncovered a large-scale conspiracy to distribute counterfeit money allegedly involving Tony Hassan and Anthony Caldori. He had told the police of his investigations. The newspaper having indicated that they intended to publish their investigations on 11 September, the police arrested Hassan and Caldori on 10 September.

The article constituted a detailed description of the investigations. It was submitted by the Attorney General that it described the alleged conspiracy as established fact. It also referred to the defendants' criminal records. When, the case

came on for trial on 24 July 1995, counsel for the defendants had successfully applied to the trial judge for a stay of the proceedings because of prejudice allegedly caused by the article. The court's task was not to consider how other courts might react to the existence of the publication, but to form its own view as to whether the criteria laid down by section 2(2) had been satisfied.

The publication in relation to Hassan and Caldori had beyond doubt constituted a contempt of court under the strict liability rule. The article was well designed to make a big impact on the reader, and the portrayal of the men as career criminals was very likely to be remembered as a feature of it. It must have been realised by the respondents at the time of publication that Mr Mahmood would be a witness at the trial, which would increase the risk of a juror who had read the article remembering parts of its contents not admissible in evidence. It followed that the judge had been correct to not to allow the trial to proceed. The ef-

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Europe's lost chance to sow the seeds of change

Europe has had more than 30 years to wind down its scheme for over-producing overpriced food but yesterday it once again fumbled the fundamental reforms that are required. Let's rephrase that: what the Common Agricultural Policy needs is not reform but abolition. Here, this week, with the publication of a plan for negotiations for new entrants to the club, was a golden opportunity to confront the farmers of Franche-Comté and their British and German kin with a reality that has been visited sharply upon their steel-making and coal-hewing compatriots – the reality of adaptation to changing market circumstances. It has been thrown away.

But surely only temporarily. The idea that Polish ploughmen or Cypriot wine-growers are going to be inaugurated into a regime of subsidy that national taxpayers and Sainsbury's shoppers will put up with paying for is untenable. Sooner or later the European Commission is going to have to produce a document that should have seen the light of day a generation ago – a plan for eliminating intervention in agricultural markets altogether in order to allow European food prices to drop to world market levels. Until that day every European discussion should note that the completion of the single market, common currency, harmonisation of trading standards – all the objectives of economic union – are stained and

compromised by the preservation of agricultural price distortion.

Note straightaway that urging the abolition of the CAP is not at all the same as saying there should be no government help for rural communities or public money allocated to preserve landscapes or policies to promote diversified land use. On the contrary, one of the most serious charges that can be made against the CAP is that its "social" justification, that it preserves a valuable form of life in rural areas, does not hold: rural depopulation has accompanied the most effluent flow of subsidy money into farmers' pockets. As for the CAP as a tool of environmental protection, that is risible. It is a scheme for subsidising over-production and, in certain areas, that has meant the ruthless exploitation of land for a single crop. Recent efforts to buy out land and turn it into forest, for example, have had limited success; and besides, if the expansion of woodland is a policy objective (as well it might be) it should be done directly rather than as an expensive by-product.

Many further arguments could be mustered against the CAP. Let's plump for two. The first is that it constitutes a monstrous unfairness between producer groups. Shipbuilders, coalminers and metal-bashers have all had to take on the chin the effects of open markets. Even in Germany where the old industries of the Ruhr and the Saar have long



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exercised a hold on the political imaginations of Bonn politicians, subsidies have been cut and capacity reduced. The end of coal subsidies is now in sight, despite those recent – and politically effective – demonstrations in the German capital. Aren't the coal communities of Yorkshire or the Lorraine as deserving as the villages of Cambridgeshire or the Chalonais? French nationalism, for ever looking back to the glory days, might once, perhaps, have made a case for protecting the way of life of *la France profonde*. The nature of post-war German politics, especially the need for the Chris-

tian right to keep the Bavarians sweet, explains the adherence of Germany to the original CAP terms. But what looked plausible in the Fifties when the Treaty of Rome was composed makes no sense in the days of the Treaty of Maastricht, let alone Amsterdam. The play of interests inside our own party politics is not so remote from the French, even though we like to sneer at the way in which French urbanites airily defend the indefensible for the sake of some rural essence. In spite of our recent change of government, it is still possible to detect beneath the surface the urban politicians' discomfort

with confronting the transformation of the economics of the countryside. It is not hard to fathom why Tory Eurosceptics often proved remarkably credulous when it came to the subject of agricultural subsidy.

Of course the CAP has "worked" in the sense that it has buoyed farming incomes. But it is plain wrong to extrapolate the fact of excess farming income into the preservation of some valued way of life. The most casual traveller through rural France or Germany (for the purposes of the abolition argument, it is these countries alone which really count) can see that rural employment has less and less connection with agriculture. Village communities enjoy very mixed fortunes, some rising on the back of commuters who spend their urban earnings locally, and new patterns of economic activity which have very little to do with the land, and a lot to do with the kind of people who want to live in the country.

As for the other arguments, all have fallen by the wayside. Countries do not need to protect an indigenous agricultural industry for "security" reasons: we all depend on imports for critical technologies, including agricultural ones. The fact that the Americans feathered their own farming industry even more luxuriously than Europeans is relevant only in giving EU negotiators a strong card to play in the World Trade Organisation.

The CAP is a tax on consumers for the sake, not of agricultural labourers, nor hedgerows or ponds, but for the short-sighted benefit of a select few farming pockets. British, French and German agriculture would not disappear if farmers had to compete on world markets. Their numbers might fall, but their use of land would become more practical, and less destructive. And we would all be a lot better off.

Hey professor, T Rex is fun

Dr Jack Horner is a spoilsport. Paleozoologist he may be, but, as Americans say, lighten up! Yes, dinosaurs wouldn't break into cars, no, they did not run on their toes and you're right, reptiles do not have deep parental feelings for their offspring. But who said Stephen Spielberg was a doctor of science? He is a film-maker, and we are going to see *The Lost World* for thrills and spills, not a lesson in saurian habits. A *Tyrannosaurus rex* from Spielberg's master animators is meant to entertain: giving it mammalian behaviour is artistic licence, which we shouldn't get too earnest about. With luck, children will spend Friday night at the movies and Saturday morning admiring bones in the Natural History Museum.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Ballet schools fail to face their problem

Sir: Joan Brady ("A step in the wrong direction", 14 July) damns the quality of all British ballet training and teaching along with what she alleges about the Royal Ballet School.

I have news for Mrs Brady. There does exist British ballet outside the Royal Ballet and The Royal Ballet School. There do exist many directors, teachers and administrators who give serious care and attention to the mental and emotional development of dancers as well as to their technical training and their creative development. We practise professional development and are passionate about all areas of our work.

This work is suffering severely, unlike the fully funded Royal Ballet School, from the almost total elimination of any funding to students from their local education authorities, while the Department for Education and Employment has refused to date to address the problem. This places, on the school and parents, horrendous problems of fund-raising.

Dance training and education in this country is, generally speaking, below internationally recognised standards. In no way do I attempt to excuse the dance world for its failure to address this issue properly, openly and honestly and until it does so it will gain the respect of no one. Neither the Royal Ballet School in its chosen isolationist position, selfishly hugging its funding, nor the profession's unconstructive complaining have done anything to help solve the problem.

ANN STANNARD
Director
Central School of Ballet
London EC1

Sir: Joan Brady's article on The Royal Ballet School is strangely written. It was attempting to destroy the reputation of the school which is judged to be one of the finest in the world. Her views, in the main, were drawn from the recent industrial tribunal case brought by Linda Goss, which resulted in a judgement against the school because her redundancy was not handled correctly on technical procedural grounds. The rest of her allegations were dismissed by the tribunal.

Those wanting to judge the success of the school's training should have been at the Royal Opera House on 1 July – or at Holland Park Theatre this week. Indeed, at the Opera House's final performance, former pupils of the school, now some of the brightest stars in the international ballet world, performed to great acclaim. World-class teachers have nurtured this special talent and they deeply resent some of the implications made by Linda Goss.

This is a dynamic, vital institution, where the cream of today's talented young dance students are making something worthwhile of their lives, with the help of dedicated teachers. It's easy to knock the best – but it's not worthy of a caring teacher like Linda Goss. Her remarks damage those whom she seeks to serve – the students themselves.

LORD STERLING
Chairman of Governors
The Royal Ballet School
London W14

Sir: As an ex-pupil of White Lodge, the lower school of The



Royal Ballet School from 1970 to 1974, it was with dismay that I read Joan Brady's article.

I hoped that in the 1990s the school would have adopted methods of training that produced dancers of technical brilliance without destroying "soul" in the process, which I feel Linda Goss is attuned to. However, sadly her observations are reminiscent of the 1970s, in particular the psychological abuse of pupils.

Linda Goss had been a courageous woman who had dared to challenge a major institution.

MICHAEL D VENN
London SW5

Sir: As an objective observer currently writing a book about the life of the children at The Royal Ballet School, I find Joan Brady's article unjust. It bears no relation to what I see there day by day as I watch the pupils at work and chat to them between classes and rehearsals.

It is a tough training, and constant intensive effort is needed to succeed as a professional dancer. It can be painful to accept that the best roles will go to the hardest-working and most talented children. However, most of the children are highly motivated and there is great satisfaction in performance and creative choreographic work, art and music. The atmosphere is much more relaxed than it was when I wrote my first book about the school in 1978. The laughter, chatter and high spirits in free time is as infectious as anywhere else.

CAMILLA JESSEL
(Lady Panufnik)
Twickenham, Middlessex

To prevent war, tackle poverty

Sir: Sir Michael Alexander is right to commend the Government for its commitment to creating a national consensus on defence and security policies (letter, 16 July). And Polly Tyness (article, 14 July) is right to say that the defence review has been "a remarkable exercise in open government".

However, in this context of openness and fresh thinking, it is curious that so little attention has been paid to another government review: the International Development White Paper. Underdevelopment, weak political institutions, the abuse of human rights, population growth and the deterioration of the natural environment – all matters that are being addressed within the White Paper – have the most profound implications for global security.

Fifteen of the 20 poorest countries in the world have experienced significant violent conflict in the past 15 years. And the consequences are not contained within national borders. In 1995, the international community paid out \$3bn on peace-keeping operations alone.

The simultaneity of the International Development White Paper and the Strategic Defence Review, not to mention the Government's review of arms export controls, provides an unrivalled opportunity for more

coherent policy responses to the inter-related challenges of sustainable development, conflict prevention, the promotion of good governance and the achievement of common security.

DAVID MEPPHAM
British Foreign Policy Programme
Safeworld
London WC1

Hunters – turn to the mountains

Sir: If Geoff Stovold (letter, 14 July) wishes to take part in a sport involving courage, chivalry and responsibility then I suggest he takes up mountaineering. The mutual dependency between two people connected by a rope, where a mistake by either can be fatal for both, requires absolute trust and creates the strongest of friendships.

Mountaineers also contribute to rural economies, do not involve innocent third parties such as horses and do not have the destruction of life as their aim.

RICHARD ADAMS
Dundee

Sir: Barry Leathwood (letter, 11 July) criticises Charlie Pye-Smith's estimate of the impact that a hunt ban would have on rural jobs.

There is much confusion over this issue. Let me put the record straight. If hunting is banned we estimate that about 14,000 jobs will be lost directly. These are made up as

follows. Employees of kennels and hunt establishments: 910. Stable staff of hunt followers whose prime task is looking after hunters: 3,000. Equestrian trade (fodder, bedding, saddlery, clothing): 3,415. Equestrian industry (vets, farriers, tivery yards): 5,486. Hotels, horse boxes, garages: 1,000.

The number of 60,000 jobs quoted referred to the people employed directly in all field sports, including shooting and fishing and is based on an extensive report done by Cobham Resources and published in May 1997.

EWE ANDREWS
Deputy Chairman
British Field Sports Society
London SE11

Sir, Although, commendably, you oppose a hunting ban on libertarian grounds (leading article, 11 July), you maintain not only that "making a sport of killing animals is wrong", but that most of the British public support this contention.

Really? Then why do so few lose any sleep over the shooting of game – a sport in which enjoyment is much more directly dependent on the killing of animals than is the case with hunting?

LORD MONSON
House of Lords
London SW1

Sir: If English MPs are to be excluded from voting on Scottish and Welsh issues, surely urban MPs must be excluded from banning fox-hunting?

TOM KENYON-SLANEY
London W6

Paying the bill for justice

Sir: According to the Lord Chancellor, higher court fees don't deter litigants any more than increases in excise duty stop people buying cars ("Fat cat" lawyers face censure", 15 July). However, the only people who buy cars are those who have cash or credit – everybody else does without. Many people deserve redress but can't get legal aid and can't stump up the fees.

Lord Irvine is right to be concerned about "the price at which lawyers value their own services", but this is a separate issue. Making litigants pay most of the costs of running the courts is like making only sick people pay for the NHS.

SUZON FORSCY-MOORE
Ongwen
The Campaign for a Fair Hearing
Cambridge

Price of Pooh

Sir: There is a simple and rather heart-warming reply to Philip Stott's observation (letter, 14 July) on the relative value of an E.H. Shepherd drawing and an original Maillol drawing or Bonnard lithograph, namely that A.A. Milne's creation has touched the lives of many more people in a much deeper way than any stuffy and precious work of art, however good.

I am rather pleased to see evidence that we have out priorities right. You may keep your etchings; I and many others will be happy to live with many childhood memories of a boy and his bear. Long live Pooh!

CHRISTOPHER J SHORE
Cambridge

Patents unlock gene secrets

Sir: One thing that many commentators on the debate about genetic patenting (Letters, 14, 15, 16 July) appear to have missed: the reason why patents exist. In return for a time-limited period of protection, during which the patent holder has the sole right to exploit the invention, the inventor places the information about the invention into the public domain.

Those opposing the granting of gene patents should reflect on the fact that in 20 or 30 years' time, these patents will expire and then anyone will be able to use the technology. This is better than having the knowledge locked away unused, or kept commercially secret, or, worse still, never discovered in the first place because no funds are available for the basic research.

TONY FUELL
Executive Director
The British Institute of Regulatory Affairs
London E14

Sir: During the 18th and 19th centuries, chemists identified and isolated most of the chemical elements, the basic building blocks of the universe. Would we have been happy if they had then patented their discoveries? No, we would have been outraged. I suggest we should respond similarly to attempts to patent the "elements" of life.

ANDREW BELSEY
Centre for Applied Ethics
University of Wales
Cardiff

Rate for the job at the BBC

Sir: Rob Brown has the right to his view that senior executives with the very real privilege of working for the BBC should be remunerated less well than elsewhere in the media ("What price public service", 9 July). However, quite how such a policy could be expected to maintain a management team of the calibre to run Britain's largest and arguably most important media company is less clear – a point emphasised by recent appointments such as Michael Jackson at Channel 4 (from the BBC) and ITV's new chief executive.

The BBC has a single pay policy, across all its grades – of paying at a level necessary to attract and retain staff of the right level. At the most senior level rates of pay remain modest in comparison with the incentive packages available elsewhere in the industry. A few senior executives have had rises reflecting a major increase in their responsibilities, but on average they have been much lower than newspaper stories have implied.

COLIN BROWNE
Director of Corporate Affairs
BBC
London W1

Driver in danger

Sir: Christopher Padley (letter, 11 July) seeks a vehicle whose driver will behave more safely because he or she is most at risk. Such a vehicle exists; it is called a bicycle.

A collision with even a pedestrian is usually more damaging to the rider. GRAHAM BALFURY
Bristol

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هكذا من الأصل

interview

The controversial winner of the Carnegie Medal for children's fiction explores the dark side of growing up. Ann Treneman meets the author of a beautifully written story of the glamour and waste of the drug culture



Melvin Burgess with his children, Oliver and Pearl. "Grown-ups are terribly nostalgic about childhood. But it's not necessarily a happy time, is it?" Photograph: John Angerson

Needle-sharp tales for teens

Melvin Burgess probably doesn't mean to look scary, but he does. Perhaps it is the missing front tooth. Never mind that he knocked it out with a hammer while on a DIY mission, it still looks frightening. Or perhaps it is the short and haphazard haircut. "I suppose it does make me look a bit of a convict," he says. Or perhaps it is because he is the author of *Junk*, a book about a couple of 14-year-olds named Gemma and Tar who run away from home and get hooked on the glamour of drugs just a moment before they get hooked on heroin for real. Yesterday this book won the Library Association's Carnegie Medal, the most pres-

tigious prize in children's literature, but the fact that it is beautifully written does not make the profoundly depressing tale any easier to read.

The book uses nine characters to chart Gemma and Tar's downward spiral, but Melvin says none of them is him. Yes, he lived in inner-city Bristol for eight years in the Eighties and he knew the scene well. There were a lot of drugs, unemployment and interesting people milling around. "A lot of crime and a lot of ideas as well, lots of left-wing politics." His brother was a junkie and died of a disease (though of Hodgkin's disease) a few years ago. But Melvin was not.

"I managed to steer clear of needles and highly addictive substances," he says. "I was an

observer. Journalists are observers but so are novelists. You try to arrive at the truth by telling a pack of lies if you are writing fiction, as opposed to trying to arrive at a pack of lies by telling the truth if you are a journalist." He laughs at this with real delight.

At one point, Melvin did a bit of journalism himself but hated it. That was right after his schooling, which he wasn't too keen on either. "You see the thing is I failed my 11-plus and so I went to a secondary modern. I can remember one hideous old bag of a harridan who set us a story. I did it in the form of a diary and she was furious because I hadn't done as I was told. I remember her saying to me: 'You have to learn to walk before you can

run. So I didn't do any more stories for that old bag."

He pauses for a moment in what is obviously a roll. "I have excised her name from my memory. They weren't all ratbags but some of them were the most horrendous bitches and bastards. I can remember teachers in those days at secondary moderns who really wanted their entrails pulled out through their navels."

His upbringing may have been middle-class and Home Counties, but for years after he gave up on journalism he was a spare-time writer who was often unemployed or doing jobs such as bricklaying or bus conducting. At 35 he moved north and started writing full-time. Eight years later he is still making a living at it - just - from his terraced house in the village of Eartby, near Skipton, Yorkshire.

He is separated and lives there with his son Oliver, eight, and his daughter Pearl, six, who visits regularly from her mother's home in Germany. Pets include two gigantic cockroaches and a large jar of snails. There is also a cat named Panky. There used to be one named Hanky but he has moved next door. All of this was in aid of being able to go out of the back door and shout: "Hanky-Panky! Hanky-Panky!"

The practical and the magical live side-by-side in this house. There is a large, custom-built

Wendy House in his front room, for instance, and the fireplace is dwarfed by a giant kite. But the kitchen is geared to real-life cooking and as a single father he knows what that means. His writing also can be surreal, though his approach is anything but. "When I decided to see if I could do this full-time, I decided to do short stories, radio plays

6 I like doing funny books though my funny books are quite nasty as well, come to think of it

and children's fiction." He sold all three but his children's fiction got the best response, so he went to the *Writer's and Artist's Yearbook* and started contacting publishers. He never got past the "A's" because there he found Andersen Press and its director, Klaus Flugge.

"With Klaus I don't need an agent. He's a good publisher, he looks after you. He makes sure you get your money early at Christmas. You can walk in with a manuscript and out with a cheque. Why give 20 per cent to an agent? Sod them."

His first book, *The Cry of the*

Wolf, was shortlisted for the Carnegie and he was off. Nature seems a favourite - tigers and red kites both have books - but he has also roamed from the eerie world of a rubbish tip city to the rubble of the Second World War. His best books all have a dark edge. "Grown-ups are terribly nostalgic about childhood," he said. "But it's not necessarily a happy time, is it?" He knows he has a talent for writing about the dark side of life. "I do like the internal intensity," he said.

It was Klaus who suggested he might want to tackle the subject of drugs. "His son was around the age when he might start experimenting and he wanted to give him a book, but there weren't any on the subject. Particularly there was nothing about the culture which is so exciting - the drugs, the glamour, the music."

The research was already done, of course, and so he decided to do the book. "I knew it all already, but some of the bits, particularly those to do with my brother, were upsetting. It's terribly upsetting watching somebody who is addicted. It has a totally distinctive effect on the personality and how they operate. I would be very interested to know how the very rich behave, but its effect on your average poor Joe is quite devastating. They become astonishingly devious and self-deceiv-

ing. You cannot leave your credit cards or a handbag lying around as they just disappear. Even if they love you."

Since it was shortlisted for the Carnegie, *Junk* has had its share of shock-horror headlines but Melvin believes that no one really objects to the book - though the media are determined to find someone, anyone, who does. It is true that the most quoted critic - Nick Seaton, from a parents' lobbying group - had not read the book and objected mainly to it being on the shortlist. Burgess dismisses the whole farrago: "It is just nonsense that anyone should object to any child who is 14 or 15 reading something like this."

But when one or two paragraphs are quoted out of context, then it is his turn to object. Like the time a radio interviewer read out a passage where the beautiful but hopelessly hooked Lily injects into the veins between her breasts while feeding her baby. "As far as the heroin side of it is concerned, it is based on things that people I knew very well did. All the shocking bits are true. The Lily character is based on a real person who still has bruises up and down her beautiful long legs and who did inject while breastfeeding," he says. "But I really didn't think people would say how dare he write about people injecting their milky tits with heroin. I thought it would

be how dare he acknowledge that drugs are fun and that drugs are glamorous."

Perhaps one reason for the headlines is that teenage fiction itself is a fairly new world. Even bookshops are confused: some place *Junk* with adult fiction, others in the children's section. But part of the book's danger comes from its 14-year-old narrators. "Chasing the dragon... yeah," says Gemma. "It's like Chinese magic. That smoke, that's your Chinese dragon and when you breathe that dragon in and he coils about in your veins, like Lily said, you feel better than anyone else ever did. You feel better than Churchill after he won the war, you feel better than the cowboy when he discovered fire, you feel like Romeo did when he finally got to bed with Juliet."

Then there is Tar, who traded his parents' alcohol-sozzled world for his own drugged one. Here is how he reacts to finding Alan and Helen, two of his friends, dead with needles sticking out of their arms. "They looked just like themselves but they weren't moving. Alan was still gorgeous. She'd gone a bit thin lately, which didn't suit her. So had he but it made him look even nicer if anything. I wanted to kiss her on the cheek because I knew she couldn't wake up."

You could not write this kind of stuff for an 11- or 12-year-old but you can for a 15-year-old. "The funny thing is that the actual glamour of realism isn't really realism. It's a sort of glamour embedded in life. The whole thing about heroin, for example, is that being dead can be seen as really quite glamorous. You know the whole thing of too fast to live, too young to die. Now there's heroin chic, sick, skinny, pale girls with bags under their eyes. And they even have them sort of fashionably huddled up in corners of concrete urinals. The only thing they don't show is the pool of vomit they would have next to them in real life."

Junk is rather good at pools of vomit. "Of the central people that I based *Junk* on, one is dead, one I've lost touch with, two still have a problem and one is still on methadone," he says. "It is dangerous stuff. There are a lot more fun things to do. If people are going to take drugs - and a lot of them are - then they should be encouraged not to take this one in particular."

The real challenge in terms of drug novels, he says, would be to write one about the not-so-dangerous kinds that hundreds of thousands of people take every weekend with no dreadful consequences. For the moment, though, he has other things on his mind. One is a "knobboys" book about sexuality, and another is a tale of loneliness and kids who live in ventilation shafts.

Does he ever yearn to write a book about smiling people and happy endings? "No, not really. I quite like to do funny books though my funny books are quite nasty as well, come to think of it," he laughs, his gap tooth flashing merrily away.

Junk by Melvin Burgess (Andersen Press, £12.99).

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Offer also applies to spouses

Heard the one about the running joke?

I am told that the Lada car will soon no longer be on sale in this country. Well, I wasn't told it - I overheard it on the radio. A Lada agent was being interviewed by a BBC reporter about the end of the Lada presence in the UK. Well, that's not quite true either. The BBC reporter was mostly taking the opportunity of telling the Lada agent all the Lada jokes he knew. You know Lada jokes? They are jokes that depend on your accepting the Lada as a really bad car. Jokes like these:

"What do you call a Lada with twin exhausts?"
"A wheelbarrow."

"How does a thief break into a Lada?"
"Through the coachwork."

"What do you call a Lada with no wheels?"
"A skip."

Do you get the idea? No, they're not that funny, really. The Lada agent certainly didn't think so. He didn't laugh at all. There was a good chance he had heard many of them before. There was an even better chance that, as he made a

living from selling Lada cars, he wouldn't have found them very funny anyway. But the BBC reporter went on telling the man these Lada jokes. This may have been because he was a bad interviewer. But more likely it was because he knew that if he didn't tell these jokes now he would never be able to tell them again.

We are, in fact, in the death of an Aunt Sally, the end of a laughing stock, the time when a running gag finally runs out of puff and collapses on the edge of the track, unable to continue. We need running gags like these. Society seems to depend on them. But we have to change them from time to time, because you can't work a running gag for ever. They did their best with the British Rail sandwich. Ho, ho, ho! The old British Rail Sandwich joke:

"He was as dead as a British Rail sandwich."

"Her lips curled up, like the edges of a British Rail sandwich."

Ha ha ha, ho ho ho, good old British sense of humour. Even when the sandwiches became good on British Rail

Miles Kingston

the jokes went on. Indeed, even the disappearance of British Rail hasn't affected the joke. People still make jokes about the same railway sandwiches.

(Strange, because by now you think people would be making jokes about Eurostar sandwiches. I have travelled twice on Eurostar, and each time the standard of snacks at the buffet and on the trolley was abysmal. I have heard the same from other travellers. You get a far better service on the Portsmouth to Cardiff train than the London to Paris train.)

But Aunt Sallys don't just die, they get born as well. Have you noticed that Channel 5 is a new laughing stock? Quick, cheap laughs are readily available by saying a thing is almost as hard as getting Channel 5, or almost as bad as Channel 5. I wouldn't know myself - I can't get Channel 5. And the man who allegedly visited every home in Britain to return our TV sets never came near us. But even though I have never seen a Channel 5 programme, I have heard a Channel 5 joke already, as follows:

"Did you hear about the Channel 5 executive who got married. Grey wedding, crappy reception..."

I didn't say it was a good joke. I just said it was a joke, and I find it extraordinary that people can repeat jokes like that who have never seen Channel 5 in their lives. They used to make similar jokes about Channel 4. They used to make jokes about the Sinclair CS. In fact, they now make jokes about Norwegians. My son the other day repeated a line he had pinched from *Red Dwarf* - "Death is like being at a party where all the guests are Norwegians" - and he laughed. But my son has never met a Norwegian in his life. He doesn't know where Norway is. He simply recognised the shape of a good joke and laughed.

Someone told me a joke about Damon Hill the other day. How did it go? That's right:

"Why is Damon Hill envious of Tiger Woods? Because Tiger Woods can drive 300 yards."

Hmm. Perhaps it loses something in the writing-down. And if you have never heard of either man, it may lose a little something too. Anyway, this is straying somewhat from my original point, which was merely to issue a request to surrender all your Lada jokes, as they are now beyond their sell-by dates and no longer work properly. Please send them back, together with any other obsolete and no longer working gags you may have, for instance, Group 4 jokes, or Lord Lucan jokes, or Prince Charles talking to the flowers jokes, or Gazza jokes, or Eldorado jokes, or ... Full list on request.

Burke: the rights and wrongs of radicalism

"I hope there weren't any ghastly journalists present, saying that I wanted to burn the rich," muttered Ken Livingstone as he loped down the marble staircase of Church House in London, after an impassioned rant about the French Revolution. "That would cause trouble with Mandelson."

So, for the record, he did not say he wanted to burn the rich now; only that if he had been a French peasant in 1790 he might well have joined the mobs who nailed their landlords' feet to the ground then lit fires between their legs. He was debating the philosophy of Edmund Burke with Roger Scruton, the professor of philosophy at London's Birkbeck College. Charles Moore, editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, and Edward Pearce, the

journalist, intellectual, the last two presumably un-ghastly journalists. Burke, who died 200 years ago this month, still rouses modern readers as he did his friend and contemporary Oliver Goldsmith, who wrote "Here lies our good Edmund, whose genius was such we scarcely can praise it or blame it too much." As the bicentenary approaches, posterity has been trying to prove Goldsmith wrong. Last year came Conor Cruise O'Brien's gigantic book *The Great Melody*, which endeavoured to show that Burke had never seriously contradicted himself and that all the apparent twists, from support of the American Revolution to violent condemnation of the French, were all based on a passion for liberty.

On Tuesday night, in front of the Burke Society, Livingstone and Pearce had a good bash at proving that Goldsmith was wrong about blaming Burke, as well as about praising him. He was, said Pearce, "a towering snob, who wrote that the 'occupation of a hair-dresser or of a working tallow chandler cannot be a matter of honour for any person' and that the very idea of the fabrication of a new government must live in Burke's horror."

Pearce now lives in the old Buckinghamshire constituency of Wendover, where, he said, 38,000 people had voted at the last election even if their MP was still a Tory. "It was never the belief or hope of Edmund Burke that this should be allowed..." In Edmund Burke's time there were 19 people who voted in the constituency, in public, under the eye of the Duke of Grafton, who owned it. What we have is better than what he had and has been achieved by radicalism.

As one voice from the audience pointed out, though, Burke did not really hate all revolutions: only those less than 100 years old.

The Conservative side was less than eager to examine the question of whether Burke would have approved of universal suffrage and equality for women, though Moore assured us that "the extremities of democracy would have distressed him. Burke accepted the fact of change, and even the need for it. What he hated was the passion for it."

In this Olympian view, Livingstone had a simple and passionate rejoinder. "I don't think



Andrew Brown

Edmund Burke did not really hate all revolutions: only those less than 100 years old

reflecting modern Conservative politics was when Moore tried to defend Burke against the charge of snobbery: "In talking about the spirit of a gentleman he is not making a class point. He is contrasting it with the dust and powder of individuality."

But perhaps Conservative philosophers don't have systematic principles, only insights. Scruton claimed that Burke was a greater writer than thinker but that he had profoundly understood that institutions and customs can embody wisdom: "In certain areas, the excellent emerges only slowly over time. It is not produced by a plan, a project, or a programme."

"The institution contains wisdom even though the individual heads that contain it do not..." Parliament is wise enough to contain even people like Ken Livingstone. "This argument would have been even more impressive had he not been making it in Church House, home of the General Synod of the Church of England, an institution which manages to contain great quantities of wisdom and intelligence among its members without letting any of those qualities contaminate its decision-making."

Yet the most moving testimony to Burke's persisting power to disturb came from the audience: a woman described lecturing on Burke in Rhodesia - as it then was - in the years between 1965 and 1967, when Ian Smith's regime turned its face against peaceful change.

One of the listeners in her class was always from the Security Police: "We could always spot him because he wrote so slowly..." When I reached Burke's saying that 'a state without the means of some change is without the means of its preservation' the class fell silent. They understood what had been said. The policeman asked me for the address of this man Burke."

Middle England's not worth listening to

by Polly Toynbee

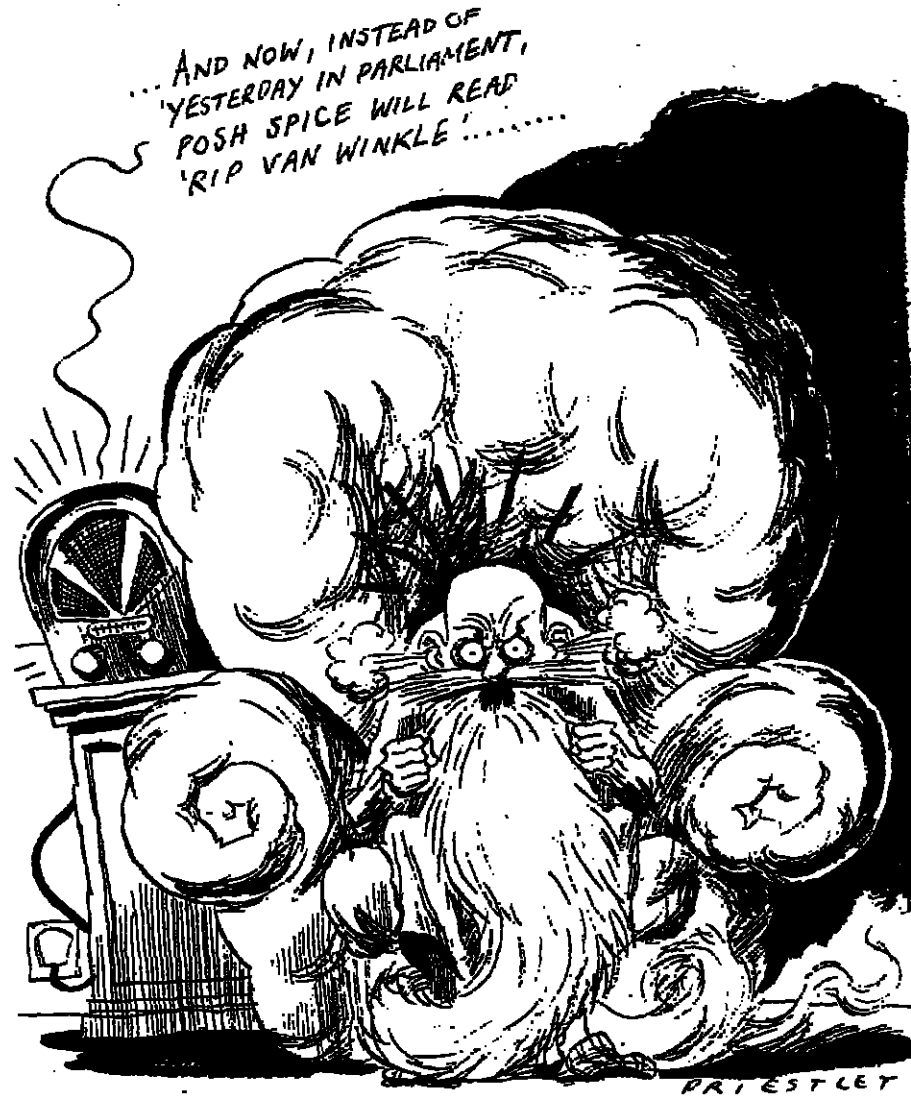
There is no national church, no great emblem of state to enshrine our common values. Fissiparous, individualistic, what is there left as a totem of nationhood? Only the BBC now remains to bear this wretched role as a temple of national culture. Within the BBC the heaviest burden of all is carried by Radio 4, as if it were indeed the Arc of the Covenant with the people. And what in the schedules of this Holy of Holies is untouchably sacred? Well, it seems to be *The Archers* and the *Today* programme: Linda Snell and John Humphrys, and that's it, really.

Radio 4's controller, James Boyle, threatens to chuck out the chintz on Radio 4, but he has been greeted like the Emperor Titus at the temple gates, about to cast the BBC into the dumb-down diaspora. No, he is not actually going to touch *The Archers* or the *Today* programme - they are indeed sacrosanct. But he may murder 20 or even 30 other hallowed programmes - the biggest shake-up ever.

The gnashing of false teeth was as predictable as the news pips. It is always the most bone-headed who shout loudest about "dumbing down": they should know. Take the *Express* denouncing the "tripe" the BBC puts out, warning (wrongly) that comedies, quizzes and celebrity chat-shows will replace "heavyweight shows - or what pass for such at Broadcasting House."

With lunatic nostalgia they recall the glory days of *Two Way Family Favourites* and *Take It From Here*. "Lord Reith will turn in his grave," *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*, pursuing their unwavering assaults on the BBC under Murdoch's approving eye, pitched in with stories of a cultural holocaust. They should look at themselves.

What are we talking about here? Why does Middle England's pulse start to race if anyone breathes the words "Radio 4" and "change" in the same sentence? What are these national values vested in Radio 4's bizarre hotch-potch of programmes, some very good, some dreadful, many mediocre? So far, we only know that change will come. Some programmes are for the minor, others will be moved. On 24 July we shall see whether dumber dishes will take their place, or maybe a better, richer menu. Improvement would not be very difficult. But selling the new cuisine will be well-nigh impossible. Bring back our Snooks! Why, Oh Why...? We can write the *Feedback* letters now.



of us have to listen in the name of democratic duty?

Now this will be the best test of the BBC's resolve - can they for once resist the vanity of politicians? Good at resisting political pressure these days, they are hopeless at dealing with political vainglory. All in all, the BBC puts out unwarranted access of politicians talking for fear of political retribution at licence-fee time. Politicians fight to be on at 8.10am, fondly imagining it to be the hot spot, but Boyle's research shows it has become the turn-off-in-drowses slot. (Could be because the politicians do appear then?)

What goes out in the prime 7.50am slot? *Daily Thought for the Day*, when the figures dip right down as people like me reach for the off button, turning on again at 8am for the news. Will Boyle dare drop God? Or relegate her to a snooze-button slot along with *Farming Today*?

Standing up to God is almost as difficult as standing up to Parliament - but that will be another good test of Boyle's radicalism. *Start the Week* and *Moral Maze* appear to be due for the removal van. The plunge after nine o'clock leaves them not much of a leg to stand on - although I like them both very much. As for *Midweek*, Libby Purves's cosy encounters with nude trapeze artists, dumb or what? So is the fascinatingly frightful *Archers* - horrible characters doing nothing much - but who would dare shuffle off Shula's mortal coil?

The schedule is littered with colourless specialist niches - *You and Yours*, *Moneybox*, *Science Now*, all that God, gardening and nature study ("Sssh, isn't that a Greater Crested Newt, Mike?"). Taking a scythe to these middling fillers would hardly be the sack of Rome. Boyle's research suggests specialist audiences do not specially

seek out their niche programmes, while others turn them off. We all have our own tastes. Vociferous R4 listeners will take to the streets - or at least to their Basilidon Bond notelets - in their thousands when the new schedule is announced. But never mind them. The many more millions who leave R4 for music channels every day, returning only for *The Archers* and the news programmes are the prize Boyle has his eye on. No reason to think they are dumb or young. The average R4 listener is 55, not a problem since it has stayed much the same for the past 10 years. Idiots and youth are not the target audience, so Boyle the Destroyer may turn out to be Boyle the Better. He wants more fine radio writing, thoughts and ideas instead of shallow Punch and Judy muck controversy on tired issues. (*Soapbox* is currently the worst.)

Why does R4 stir the cricket stumps of Old England? Because in their dreams R4 means seed cake and Darjeeling, warm beer and spinners on bikes, when policemen were old, pews were full and India was ours. Betjeman's England yearning for Kipling's "If" and Jerusalem. Oh bring back all our yesterdays! (And Mrs Duke's *Diary* too.)

Of course R4 is no such thing. It is a spotted dick of a channel - a fair dollop of sledge studded randomly with many rich currants - invidious to pick particular favourites but I shall: *Poetry Please*, *Analysis*, *A Good Read*, *Barchester*, *Sony Haven*, *a Cue*, new plays, *From Our Own Correspondent* and, well, add in any others of your own. Will Boyle spoon out the duff and add more fruit?

Conservatives, by their nature, presume all change is always for the worse. Sometimes they have a point - for dumbing-down in the media is not imaginary. As we grow more affluent, educated and discriminating, the supermarkets, services, clothes designers and home furnishings all strive upwards in taste, quality and sophistication. So why does the media tend to head the other way? Why should cut-throat competition for viewers, listeners and readers so often cause a plunge for the lowest common denominator? Radio 4 can afford to swim against that trend and see whether better can also mean more listeners. As they used to say in the BBC's good old days, only time will tell - but change looks to me more like a promise than a threat.



Eron the relentlessly mystifying

Bibliophilia is a terrible affliction. The rage to possess more and more books is a curse that hasn't yet called down the wrath of the Labour government, but it's surely time some benevolent authority took a stand. As with alcoholism, it's a gradual addiction (but at least the bottles don't lurk around the house for years). Ordinary people just have a few books in their bedroom. Serious-minded *bourgeois* will put up shelves to accommodate the books they owned as students, supplemented by a cream-and-rust selection of Everyman Classics that were on the Peter Jones wedding list, plus some nods to a few interesting bestsellers - *Wild Swans*, *Money*, *Birdsong*, *A Brief History of Time*, *Captain Correll's Mandolin*, *The River Cafe Cookbook* - and call the resulting mishmash a library. True bibliophiles, however, are driven by voices in their heads that tell them: "Buy this minor work by Thomas Love Peacock, or that ninth edition of essays by Desmond McCarthy, or the eighth volume of Henry Williamson's *Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight* because you may never have another chance..." - even though they may have no opinion whatever about any of these works or their authors. I think it was Alberto Manguel who said bibliophilia fell into three stages: 1) you buy books because you want to read them; 2) you then buy books, for inscrutable reasons, that you hope one day to get round to reading; 3) you find yourself

'Magic: the Gathering' has taken over people's brains... my impulse is to dig up Tolkien and throw rocks at his moribund form

john walsh

travelling to Swindon on a rainy Saturday to buy, at ruinous expense, a volume of Schiller printed in high German script that you couldn't read even if you wanted to.

It's madness. Books overflow your living room, silt up your hallway, laze around like bored students on your severely minimalist furniture, attract dust, mildew, death-watch beetle and foxing, lurk under your bed like resentful ex-pets, glare accusingly at you for not having read them yet (the dykeish party on the cover of Huxley's *Point Counter Point* is a particularly sneaky example). Books may furnish a room, but they make a shocking mess of the house.

And they generate family tensions. Spouses of bibliophiles dread the arrival of that tell-tale crisscross shopping bag that betokens another crop of musty Rupert Brookes and Anthony Powells to gum up the place. But you can fight back. An illustration of one family's stand against bibliomania turns up this Saturday on BBC2, in *Labour's Old Romantic*, a portrait of Michael Foot by the prolific documentary maker Michael Cockerell.

Foot's father, Isaac, the liberal MP, was, it seems, bonkers about books - if one of his many children left home, the evacuated room would, by nightfall, be crammed from floor to ceiling with the things. His collection of 100,000 volumes was the biggest private library in Britain. Eventually he had to smuggle new acquisitions past his despairing wife. Was the famously bookish Michael (asks Cockerell) similarly addicted? "No," says Foot. "I'm much more controlled. Compared to my father, I'm abscissmness itself." Oh



yeah? Cockerell cuts to Michael's nephew, Paul, for corroboration. "Michael has obviously inherited the obsession," confides the great polemicist. "He has the same trouble getting books into the house as I do." (Craigie, Mrs Foot, that his father had with his mother, Jill tells him. "You cannot bring any more books into this house". Then she rings me up and we have secret meetings. She says, 'Come round at such a time, and I'll give you the Thackerays'. So I've got all Michael's Thackerays on my shelves..." I foresee war in the socialist dynasty when Footie Star finds out.

I spent the weekend up to my armpits in the Llanana pool. If I never hear another word about Eron the Relentless and the Ghazban Ogre, it'll be too soon. If the Kjeldoran Knights and the Fyndhorn Elves, with their nasty little pointy chins, all suddenly decided to stop fighting the evil necromancer Lim-Dul, depart from the land of Dominaria and go and live in Croydon, I would scarce forbear to cheer. "You've no idea what I'm talking about? Why then you must be one of the benighted people who have not fallen under the spell of 'Magic: the Gathering', a globally-connected card game that has swamped the games world and (via the Internet) taken over people's brains. I had a couple of Irish friends staying on Saturday and Sunday, and saw hardly a trace of them because they were taking part in a nationwide Magic tournament somewhere in Docklands. They had no address to go to, beyond being told to head for a Tube stop in Canning Town and find their way by, presumably, mystical means. They played all day and the next, against 480 fellow-fanatics, for the chance to take on the Uber-Magic players in Chicago, and win £30,000. The game comes from Seattle (it would). It involves 2,000 cards, which you buy for anything from £7 to £195.

Playing involves a lot of spells, land acquisitions, summoning forces to your aid, damaging people and counting the cost of your own wounds. I have even got the *Magic Official Encyclopedia* now (published by Carlton, £14.99, if you're short of a life) and still can't make head or tail of it all. My main impulse is to go and dig up J.R.R. Tolkien, who's responsible for starting all this elvish bollocks, and throw Middle-Earth-style rocks at his moribund form.

John Major is apparently thinking of moving to Kennington, to live near his beloved Oval cricket ground. I cannot fathom why former party leaders should be so keen to relocate to my unfashionable bit of south-east London (James Callaghan to Hanover Gdns SE11, Mrs Thatcher to Dulwich, if only for about two weeks), but I extend a not-inconsiderably warm welcome to the grounded ex-premier. He'll be returning to an area he used to know well, having been raised, bred and, ahem, introduced to manhood on the Brixton-Camberwell axis; but he'll find things a little different. Kennington today is a more lively, cosmopolitan place, full of unusual contrasts. Let me list a few things Mr Major should know. The trendiest couple in the area are Patrick McGrath, the brilliant showman of modern Gothic fiction, and his wife Maria Aitken, sister of the temporarily-discomfited perjurer. Where, 10 years ago, you'd have been lucky to get more than a Tobagan chicken roti around here, the Kennington end of Brixton Road is now crammed with restaurants - eight of them in half a mile, and the nearest one to the Oval is Eritrean. The coolest magazine to be seen with is *New Nation*, a style journal for the black community, run from a Kennington basement by Rupert Murdoch's feisty daughter Elisabeth. The nastiest estate is the Tanswell estate, where a 12-year-old used to lead a gang of bank-counter-hopping teenage desperadoes. The best coign of vantage from which to watch drive-by shootings is probably Vauxhall Street. Kennington estate agents are trying to persuade people that the most hip place to live is Metro Central, a block of Bakelite apartments on the Elephant & Castle roundabout; Mr Major must resist the temptation, unless he's keen on traffic fumes and shocking-pink advert hoardings. The local Triad gang is called the Blue Lantern (it's frankly social death to get this kind of detail wrong). And the most interesting bit of social history to air at dinner parties, John, is that the Imperial War Museum, on Kennington Lane, is built on the site of what used to be Bethlehem Hospital. As in Bedlam. I hope this is some help.

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Medeva shares dive on obesity drug fears

In a letter sent yesterday to

per cent stake in the Hennessy

Bernard Arnault: Plans to lobby Guinness and GrandMet shareholders Photograph: F

tics have rocked the normally staid French corporate world. never more so than his recent attempt to take over wine producer Château d'Yquem, where he had teamed up with the disenchanted members of the Lur Saluce family to force through a deal. GrandMet and Guinness may still have a fight on their hands.

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phenidate, the group's leading

strategy. I am not worried about our share price. Glaxo made a remarkable turnaround after fears over Zantac."

However analysts were sceptical. Kevin Scotcher at NatWest said: "The great hopes of replacing Methimazole with losamin has gone. And whether Medeva had good follow-up drugs is unclear."

Investment banks were also

Sandy Leitch, chief executive of British American Financial Services (BAFS), denied any connection between the move to strengthen Eagle Star's management and any demerger plans.

"If you intend to be the best, you have to recruit the best and that's exactly what we've done," he said.

Mr Leitch added: "I am absolutely delighted to have recruited such an outstanding individual as Patrick to this key position."

"The appointment reinforces our commitment to develop the whole of BAFS into the UK's leading insurance and asset management group."

Mr O'Sullivan's departure is a blow to BA's demerger plans.

Patrick O'Sullivan: Move rekindles talk of demerger

O'Sullivan gained experience of the insurance business as general manager of GE's Financial Guaranty Insurance Company. He is expected to take up his new job in September.

The possibility of a demerger of BAT's insurance and asset management businesses gained credibility in April when Lord Cairns, chairman, said there were "no sacred cows" and

The possibility of a demerger of BAT's insurance and asset management businesses gained credibility in April when Lord Cairns, chairman, said there were "no sacred cows" and declared an open mind on soli-

"The appointment reinforces our commitment to develop the whole of BAFS into the UK's leading insurance and asset management group."

Mr O'Sullivan's departure is a blow to BWZ, which has suffered several high-profile



COMMENT

The bottom line is Bernard Arnault ends up with stewardship of the most valuable and exciting part of the action and completely out of the lower-value, demerged businesses of fast food, processed food and brewing'

Proposals are hard for Guinness to swallow

Come off it, Mr Arnault. You are going to have to do rather better than that. Industrial and commercial logic certainly seems to be on the Frenchman's side in his battle to rework the Guinness/Grand Metropolitan merger, but that's not going to make his proposals any more palatable to City investors. It is hard to disagree with Guinness's initial reaction - these proposals would represent a substantial transfer of value to LVMH, giving Mr Arnault control of the new drinks company without having to pay any kind of a premium for it.

Here's why. It is possible to argue until the cows come home about the basis for Mr Arnault's claim that he would be entitled to 35 per cent of the drinks company created by his proposals. However, the bottom line is he ends up with stewardship of the most valuable and exciting part of the action and completely out of the lower value, demerged businesses of fast food, processed food and brewing.

Furthermore, the new drinks company where he concentrates his value is the part where all the resulting cost cuts of the Guinness/Grand Met merger are derived. So he gets a disproportionate share of the cost cutting upside of the merger as well.

Clearly this is all very much in Mr Arnault's interests, but it is far from clear that it is in anybody else's. Nor is it obvious that Mr Arnault's "merger and four way demerger" plan would create any extra value over and above what Guinness and Grand Met are already proposing. For a start it would be

exceptionally costly. As far as can be seen, LVMH hasn't even begun to consider the tax implications.

In any case, the recent history of demergers is that they do not in themselves create value for shareholders. The new drinks company would plainly be a better business if it included Moët Hennessy, but the extra cost cutting potential over and above that already proposed is not great. Nor would the company necessarily derive any industrial benefits not already catered for in joint ventures and through cooperation.

For all these reasons, Mr Arnault is unlikely to get much of a hearing from Guinness and Grand Met shareholders. This would be the case even if he were to reduce his demands to a rather more realistic level - say just 30 per cent of the new drinks company. Though that would certainly be a more tempting proposition, it would still represent control, for which normally an outside party would be expected to pay a very sizeable premium. The possibility of becoming subservient to Mr Arnault's wider commercial priorities and interests would ensure that in Anglo-Saxon markets the shares would trade at a discount.

Harder to see is how this standoff is going to resolve itself. Mr Arnault is a fighter and he is not going to give up. If his proposals are a non starter, it is by no means proven that the original Grand Met/Guinness merger plan is such a great idea either. We don't yet know what happens Guinness and Grand Met directors have got riding on their own merger

proposal going through. That little gem will have to wait publication of their circular to shareholders. But it is a fair bet they are substantial. A long hot summer is in prospect in this battle of self interest.

Lights are flashing amber for markets

These are either nerve-racking or exciting times in the financial markets, depending on your point of view. With the FTSE 100 a breath away from 5,000 and the Dow actually touching 8,000 yesterday the bulls are being sorted from the bears as never before. Either you believe that both the Anglo-Saxon economies have undergone fundamental improvements that promise at least another year of non-inflationary, above-trend growth. Or you think that Wall Street and London, like the pound and dollar, are chronically overvalued, with a sharp correction just a matter of time.

So far the parallels with the late 1980s seem stronger than the prospects for economic nirvana. All over the place the lights are flashing amber. Buoyant consumer confidence fuelled by faster growth in after-tax and after-inflation income; financial deregulation - this time, the building society flotations; soaring asset prices and rapid monetary growth; a strong currency; big falls in unemployment and reports of skill shortages, even unskilled labour shortages.

Since the 1980s, the underlying structure of the economy has almost certainly changed for the better, meaning unemployment can fall further without triggering inflation. But one month's slightly better than expected figures for earnings growth does not mean the laws of economics have been entirely suspended.

There are special factors driving the FTSE 100 higher at the moment, notably the fact that building society flotations have made institutional investors underweight in financials. That and the fact that overseas stock markets keep rising too. When the market finally runs out of special factors, we will still get the ultimate parallel with the late 1980s - a big stockmarket correction.

Opportunism at British Borneo

It is perhaps unfair to make comparison between the biotech and oil exploration sectors. One traditionally makes losses from alchemy and the other from holes in the ground. But both tend to ride the wave of stockmarket fashion. While the market may have a downturn on biotech companies just now, the same is plainly not true of the oil explorers, as yesterday's mammoth £167m cash raising by British Borneo Petroleum showed.

This highly profitable company, chaired by the indomitable Sir Bob Reid of British Rail fame, has demonstrated a foresight that seems to have been lacking in some of its big-

ger rivals in identifying the potential of the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The £200m to be spent on the Morpeth oil and gas field there should help British Borneo raise production from around 12,000 barrels of oil a day to perhaps 90,000 by the year 2000. That would put it well on the way to joining the ranks of substantial second-liners like Lasso and Enterprise, where production tops 200,000 barrels a day.

However, apart from this and a projected \$55m to \$60m spend on the newly-acquired half share in the Kong Kong field, also in the Gulf, Borneo is remarkably unspecific about where it will spend the rest of the money it is raising from shareholders. The latest rights issue brings to £221m the amount the company has raised from shareholders over the last 18 months or around a quarter of the company's pre-rights market capitalisation of £900m.

All the company is offering is a general statement that it will spend £500m over four years. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that British Borneo is just cashing in on a share price which has climbed from around 200p to £14 since the beginning of last year. Directors have not been immune from a bit of opportunism before, given that two of them netted £3.5m from option sales earlier this year.

They should bear in mind, however, the fate of British Biotech after its equally opportunistic £145m jumbo rights flopped almost exactly a year ago, since when the shares have

British Borneo launches £167m rights as shares soar

Magnus Grimond

British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate yesterday launched a £167m rights issue on the back of its ballooning share price, which has multiplied more than five times over the past 18 months.

Shares in the oil group, which were around 810p at the start of the year, dipped 50p to £13.02 yesterday. However, they remain above the terms of the fully underwritten two-for-nine rights, which are priced at £12 a share.

The new money will arrive some 18 months after British Borneo raised £54m in a rights call at just 310p in early 1996.

It will be used to back a £500m exploration and development programme, principally in the North Sea and the deeper waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where it also announced yesterday a deal to buy a half share in the King Kong gas field from Conoco.

No price was disclosed for the transaction, which involves blocks 472, 473 and 517 in the Green Canyon area, where British Borneo had an exploration setback earlier this year when it announced that oil deposits there were too heavy to produce commercially.

Alan Gaynor, chief executive, said: "The ambition to grow in the deep water is very large. We

feel we have a 10-year growth opportunity there."

At a meeting with analysts yesterday, the company put an estimate of £20 a share on its assets, more than double the 800p to 900p ascribed to them in the City.

While remaining highly supportive of the management, many analysts remained sceptical about the timing of the latest cash raising. One said: "You would have to be a fool not to believe it was opportunistic. Certainly it is a very heavy rights issue at a very demanding price."

Principal among British Borneo's development projects is the Morpeth oil and gas

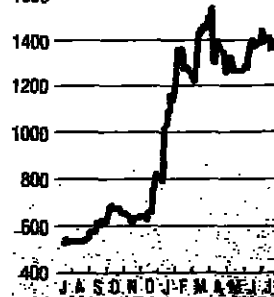
field, acquired from Shell in late 1995. It is to be developed using the innovative SeaStar mini-tension leg platform, which allows relatively small fields to be developed commercially. The overall cost of the development is put at \$217m (£129m), with first oil and gas due in the autumn of next year.

The group said total capital expenditure this year was likely to be in the region of £175m to £200m, with a further £300m up to the year 2000.

The group said it would explore and appraise existing assets in the Gulf, including Shell's Leo discovery and King Kong, where Shell has the option to become operator.

British Borneo

share price, pence



It also intends to acquire additional exploration acreage in water depths up to 4,000 feet, where it may deploy two deep water drilling rigs, Ocean Endeavour and Atwood Hunter, over which it has contracts for one and three years respectively.

The company also announced plans for an effective three-for-one stock split and forecast full-year dividends of 8.25p, the same as in 1996.

Rebel tenants threaten Innentrepreneur sale

Andrew Yates

The sale of Innentrepreneur, the controversial pub group jointly owned by Fosters and Grand Metropolitan, is under threat after more than 800 pub tenants refused to sign up to Retail Link, a new lease which commits them to buying beer from the group.

Most of the rebels, which represent about a third of the company's tenants, are thought to be determined to take legal action against Innentrepreneur over their existing leases, which analysts believe could cost the group up to £350m in damages. The move casts another shadow over GrandMet's proposed £23bn merger with Guinness.

Innentrepreneur recognises that it could be forced to settle with many of the tenants in order to dispose of the business through a flotation, trade sale or management buyout. "We will have to find a solution to these problems," said Mike Foster, Innentrepreneur's chief executive, yesterday.

Innentrepreneur is considering chopping its sale price to take account of outstanding litigation or providing warranties to a purchaser to cover future legal liabilities. But it may have to break the group up and only sell those pubs which accept the new deal.

Julian Maitland-Walker, who runs Somerset-based solicitors Maitland Walker and represents more than 200 Inn-

entrepreneur tenants, said yesterday: "There is no guarantee. Retail Link will continue to provide beer discounts after September 1998. It would not be in the interest of new owners to give a discount which would cost £40m a year so I have advised my clients to reject the deal."

The rebel tenants have battled with Innentrepreneur over the past eight years. They believe they have been forced to pay extortionate prices for their beer under existing 20-year leases. "Tied pubs had to pay 30 per cent more for their beer in some cases and they clearly got no benefits from being within Innentrepreneur. We will take legal action to recover these damages," said Mr Maitland-Walker.

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business

Pearson seeks buyer for medical publishing arm

Cathy Newman

Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, is to accelerate the pace of change at the media conglomerate by selling its medical publishing division.

The move could raise around £100m for Pearson, and would be the first disposal of a subsidiary since Ms Scardino's arrival at the beginning of the year. The money generated would be enough to cover the losses from the unauthorised discounting scandal at Penguin USA.

The medical publishing division, part of Pearson Professional, consists of two companies - Churchill Livingstone and Churchill Communications - and includes such publications as *Gray's Anatomy*. It is understood that Pearson has been canvassing various potential buyers. The company was available for comment yesterday.

Meg Geldens, media analyst at Merrill Lynch, said likely suitors would include Mosby, Reed Elsevier, WB Saunders, and Wolters Kluwer. She estimated that Pearson's medical division generated around £50m in annual sales.

Ms Geldens added: "I think it's a significant disposal because it's a real gem that's been with Pearson for a long time. However, it's probably too small to make the City happy."

Churchill Livingstone is the UK's largest medical publisher,



Marjorie Scardino: Under pressure to reorganise

and specialises in books, journals, CD-ROMs and conferences. It has operations in the US and the UK. Churchill Communications deals in pharmaceutical communications for pharmaceutical companies, and operates in Japan, the US and Europe.

Although some analysts expressed surprise that Pearson was contemplating the disposal of some of its core publishing interests, others said it made

sense, as the medical division could not compete with giants such as Wolters Kluwer, which has bought six medical publishers in the last year alone.

Churchill Communications was also badly affected by the Kobe earthquake in February 1995, and ran up a £7m loss that year, which in turn reduced Pearson Professional's margin from 11.6 per cent to 6.5 per cent.

Since Ms Scardino joined, Pearson has sold its 10 per cent interest in the Hong Kong television broadcaster, TVB, for £11.1m; its 49 per cent stake in Trill Communications, a Canadian book-selling club, for £55m; and more than two-thirds of its investment in Flextech for £24m.

Pearson has also announced its intention to sell residual stakes in BSkyB and SES, the Luxembourg-based Astra satellite owner. The group indicated earlier this year that it would put up for sale its 50 per cent stake in Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, but this is likely to take much longer. It is thought that Pearson may also be contemplating selling its 5 per cent stake in the Spanish government's digital television vehicle.

Ms Scardino has come under pressure to reorganise the business since she arrived earlier this year. City disappointment that she has not revolutionised the group so far has depressed the share price over the past few months.

Setback for sale of Freemans

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Sears, the struggling retail group, suffered a fresh setback yesterday when the Government agreed to extend the deadline for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the proposed sale of its Freemans home shopping division to Littlewoods.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it had agreed a two-month extension following representations from the MMC about the complexity of

the issues raised by the merger. A Freemans-Littlewoods link-up would give the combined company more than 25 per cent of the UK mail order market.

"In order for the MMC to be able to analyse the evidence fully and to draw sound conclusions the reporting period should be extended to 22 September," the DTI said. The report had been due next Monday. The usual time-lag between MMC reports and a DTI decision means Sears is now unlikely to know the outcome until November.

Sears shares fell 2.5p to 62.5p

on the news as analysts pondered whether the DTI move might make it more likely for the £367.5m deal to be blocked. The decision will delay Sears' plans to pay £410m back to shareholders later this year.

"It just shows with Sears that if something can go wrong, it will," said John Richards of NatWest Securities.

A Sears spokeswoman said: "We are disappointed we can't pay the money back to shareholders on the original timetable. But this doesn't affect our confidence on the outcome."

European rivals muscle in on Smith

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

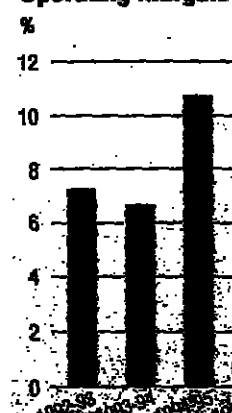
EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

David S Smith: At a glance

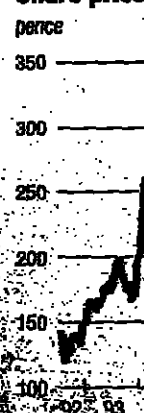
Market value: £585m, share price 185p - 5 1/2p

Five-year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (£m)	1,052	1,078	1,083	1,24	1,18
Pre-tax profits (£m)	27.1	42.2	99.7	125	96.0
Earnings per share (p)	12.6	25.2	30.3	33.1	23.1
Dividends per share (p)	4.97	5.38	6.5	7.5	8.0

Operating margins



Share price



price of 185p, down 5.5p, is now close to net asset value and could attract takeover interest from more highly valued foreign groups. But only the brave will buy now ahead of a decisive turn in the value of the pound.

Medeva falls on profit warning

Until now, Dr Bill Bogie's Messianic enthusiasm for Medeva's products has been endearing. That a drug company which specialises in treating hyperactive children should be led by a doctor who behaves as if he is on speed has always led to wry smiles in some quarters. However, Medeva's profits warning yesterday and tumbling share price did little to alter Dr Bogie's mantra-like sermon on strategy and suggests a worryingly blinkered view by the chief executive. Whether Dr Bogie acknowledges it or not, Medeva may struggle to get exciting growth over the next few years.

Having paid £260m last June for US drug manufacturer Rochester, Medeva

finally looked like it could shake off its one-product company tag. At present, hyperactive drug Methylphenidate contributes over a third of sales. However, one of the potential jewels from the Rochester acquisition lost its shine yesterday. Sales of Isonamin, the anti-obesity drug and Medeva's second-biggest product, collapsed from £21m in the second half of 1996 to £7m in the first six months of June. Part of the decline was a stocking issue, but new fears in the US that the drug causes leaky heart valves will mean flat second-half sales. Analysts were forecasting £42m for Isonamin this year.

Therein lies a problem with Medeva's strategy of picking up small, mature drugs ignored by others. Having paid a premium to buy them, the buyer sometimes then discovers why no one else bothered.

Meanwhile, Methylphenidate's sales growth is slowing. By next year there could be three other generics in the US vying for Medeva's 70 per cent market share. As a quota-controlled drug, sales should not free-fall, but will slip by at least 10 to 15 per cent a year. Whether Medeva has enough drugs to drive it forward is unclear. The group reckons its hepatitis vaccine could be a block-

buster and promises clinical data in September. Ex-Isonamin, Rochester's sales rose 16 per cent, with Tussionex for coughs looking encouraging, but the new bladder cancer drug unlikely to be significant.

NatWest Securities has cut 1997 forecasts by £7m to £114m. Even on a lowly multiple of six times forward earnings, the shares, down 13 per cent at 222p, should be avoided for now.

Bulmer fights back against alcopops

The cider industry has been far from rosy over the past few years. Alcopops, those dreaded alcoholic soft drinks, have spread like wildfire. So too have a host of new, creamy, smooth beers, such as Caffrey's, which have wrenched market share from the cider makers. Throw in indifferent summer weather last year and fierce competition from supermarket own-label brands and it is hardly surprising that the cider market has declined by 3 per cent in the past 12 months.

HP Bulmer, the UK's largest cider maker, has coped better than most, especially its nearest rival, Matthew Clark, which has had a torrid time. Bulmer's pre-tax profits for the year to April rose by 9 per cent to £30m. But margins are on the wane and it will become increasingly difficult to grow profits at a decent rate if the latest market slump turns into long-term decline. So Bulmer has decided to speed its way out of trouble. In an attempt to lead the fight back against alcopops it is launching an £8m advertising blitz. It hopes that its marketing drive, along with Matthew Clark's commitment to up its own spending, will win the all-important 18 to 24-year-old market off beer and alcoholic lemonade and back to cider. It has also spent another £500,000 launching Strongbow Smooth, the cider industry's answer to Caffrey's.

Past history suggests Bulmer's radical plan will work. Eight years ago it risked everything by ramping up its marketing campaign in a desperate attempt to arrest what looked like a terminal decline in the cider market. The City was dubious, but since then the cider market has almost doubled and profits have flowed accordingly.

But Bulmer is still taking a big gamble and the jury is out on whether it will pay off this time. The extra investment will blow a hole in earnings. Analysts now predict that pre-tax profits will be flat this year. And the spectre of higher excise duty on cider, aimed at discouraging under-age drinking, could be just around the corner.

Bulmer may be the best company in the cider industry, but the shares, down 2.5p at 472.5p, on a p/e ratio of 13, look high enough.

FREE: Thai food dish up to the value of £8

The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to claim a free Thai food dish up to the value of £8 at a selection of Thai restaurants.

By using the voucher (previously printed on July 12th, 13th and 14th - a further voucher will be printed in *The Independent* on Friday 18th July) you can claim your Free Thai food dish, per table reservation from the main menu up to the value of £8 at one of 41 participating restaurants. The list of participating restaurants previously published in *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* on July 12th and 13th, will be printed again in *The Independent* on Friday 18th July. All the participating restaurants are members of the Thai Restaurant Association (UK).

HOW TO BOOK

Firstly, phone up the restaurant of your choice from the list published and identify yourself as an Independent diner. You will need to check with the individual restaurants for their opening times and pre-booking is essential. Then simply cut out the voucher and take it to the restaurant of your choice and present it at the time of order, indicating either a starter or a main dish from the full priced menu that you wish to claim as your free dish. The vouchers can be used until 31st August 1997.

So, why not bring a spot of Thailand to your palate, whether it's dumplings, intensely flavoured soups, pad Thai, satay, spicy salads, mouthwatering curries or sweet sticky rice! The choice is yours.

YAM TALAY (Hot and Sour Seafood Salad)

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp/30ml Lemon juice
- 1 tsp/5ml Chilli powder
- 2 tbsp/30ml Fish stock
- 1 tsp/5ml Sugar
- 2 tbsp/30ml Fish Sauce
- 4 Prepared fish balls (from an oriental store)
- 4 Large raw prawns (shelled and deveined)
- 2 - 4 Crab claws
- 4 pieces Sliced squid
- 2 Lime leaves (finely sliced)
- 1 Shallot (finely chopped)
- 1/2 Small onion (finely sliced)
- Sprig of coriander leaf (coarsely chopped)
- Lettuce, cucumber, parsley etc to garnish

Method

- 1 Prepare a serving dish with lettuce, parsley and sliced cucumber and set aside.
- 2 Combine the lemon juice, chilli powder, stock, sugar and fish sauce in a small pan. Bring to the boil, stirring all the time.
- 3 Add the fish balls, prawns, crab claws and squid, and stir and cook for 2 - 3 minutes until the raw fishes are cooked through.
- 4 Take off the heat and add all the remaining ingredients.

Mix well and turn onto the prepared dish and serve.

This is a main dish which should be prepared as part of a meal for 4 people at which 4 different dishes are served with Thai fragrant rice.

The Taste of Thailand by Victoria Shumster published by Pavilion Books

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1. To participate in the offer, simply cut out the voucher printed in the Independent or Independent on Sunday and telephone the participating restaurant direct to make your table reservation, quoting the Independent offer in order to qualify for the promotion. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the promotion.
2. All reservations must be made in advance and are subject to availability.
3. Vouchers will not be accepted without a table reservation and can be used every day between 12th July and 31st August 1997.
4. The voucher is valid against any one starter or main dish from the full priced menu that you wish to claim as your free dish. The voucher cannot be used in part payment against other dishes or towards a set menu.
5. The voucher holder must complete the dish against which the voucher is intended to be used and present it at the time of order. Only one voucher can be used per table reservation. Irrespective of the number of people covered by the reservation, if the value of the indicated dish exceeds the value of the voucher, the difference will be charged.

no point can be used against another dish. 6. The voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, discount or promotion. 7. Vouchers are not valid for cash, 8. Photographs or reproductions of the voucher are not accepted. 9. The offer applies to main meals only. 10. Opening times and participating restaurants may vary. Please confirm when making your table reservation. All participating restaurants are members of the Thai Restaurant Association (UK). 11. The Independent cannot be held responsible and shall not be liable for any loss or damage by the individual restaurant and accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any participating restaurant. Any dispute over a specific restaurant must be settled by the restaurant holder directly with the individual restaurant. 12. All vouchers must be used by the 31st August 1997. 13. The voucher holder must be willing to pay for the dish against which the voucher is intended to be used and present it at the time of order. Only one voucher can be used per table reservation. Irrespective of the number of people covered by the reservation, if the value of the indicated dish exceeds the value of the voucher, the difference will be charged.

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market report / shares

Taking Stock

MAM misses out as financials lead blue-chip surge

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Mercury Asset Management is missing the firm. As blue chips in general and financials in particular lead the stock market higher, the City's most powerful fund manager appears to be the wallflower at the party.

Footsie climbed to yet another peak but MAMs fell 16.5p to 1,272.5p. The shares have found the going uncomfortable since peaking at 1,463.5p in May. The market is uneasy over the group's investment performance. The most persistent story is its suffered a poor second quarter and, in certain areas, is in effect, bottom of the class.

It appears the fund manager and property fund had a particularly unimpressive time. UBS, the fund manager, is another said to have underperformed in the second quarter. It has for long been banking on an equity collapse,

putting a surprising large slice of its funds into cash.

There is no doubt that many fund managers have been caught on the hop by the strength of equities. The chorus of caution in the Merrill Lynch survey could be an illustration of their misjudgement.

MAMs, with around £70bn under management, has been the deciding influence in many big takeover battles. It ensured Granada won the fierce £3.9bn battle for control of the Forte catering and hotel empire. Whether MAMs and its investment supremo, the remarkable Carol Galley, have misjudged equities remains to be seen. The share performance, even with the help of occasional takeover interest, is suggesting MAMs may have underperformed.

Footsie managed another unimpressive, heady gallop. Once again overseas investors were out in force. In heavy trading

Seaq volume topped 1 billion shares - the blue-chip index soared 64.9 points to 4,964.2. At one time it seemed intent on surging through the 5,000 barrier. In mid afternoon it was up 92.5 at 4,991.8.

Then New York introduced a little caution into the proceedings. In the event it shrugged off early hesitancy and during London hours smashed through 8,000 points. Compared with New York and European markets London looks cheap. Overseas investors are unworried by the increasingly inflated valuations which, anyway, are still below those in most other markets. Even so, the feeling shares

are rising too quickly, too steeply prevails in many quarters. There is a tendency to draw comparisons with the 1987 crash; the anniversary of the great equities blood bath is drawing uncomfortably near. Although the FTSE 250 index jumped 36 points blue chips remained the attraction, underlining overseas buying. Some foreigners feel quite adventurous trading in London; they are not, however, going to wander outside the comfort and protection of leading equities.

Financials again had a good run with HSBC powering ahead 65p (after 116p) to 2,151p. National Westminster

Bank on the renowned shake-up at its securities arm, recovered 21p to 874p.

The market still feels a big financial bid is being hatched. HSBC has at one time or another been linked with almost every financial in sight. Abbey National, currently bidding for Cater Allen, is another seen as strongly acquisitive.

Drugs, a long-time favourite of US fund managers, enjoyed support. They continue to direct their attention towards the bigger players with Zimex up 67p to 2,265p; only six months ago speculators were piling into the shares in the hope of a bid materialising at around 2,200p.

ScottishPower had an eventful session, closing 20p higher at 467p. Some chunky trades went through with some suggesting technical influences.

BT continued to feel the impact of the MCI fiasco, falling 7p to 445.5p. The latest twist in the drink merger cocktail

lifted Grand Metropolitan 15.5p to 621.5p and Guinness 14.5p to 620.5p.

Among supporting shares British Biotech continued to rally, up 15.5p to 183p but Medeva fell 34.5p to 222p with worries about Ionamin, the recent subject of a "Dear Doctor" letter from the US Food and Drug Administration. Iceland, the frozen food chain, rose 3p to 90.5p as Credit Lyonnais Laing hung a buy sign over the shares and Northern Foods jumped 11.5p to 224.5p on SBC Warburg support.

It, the engineer, enjoyed a NatWest Securities recommendation, putting on 18.5p to 511p.

A trading warning left Plasmion, an electronic equipment group, wallowing 86.5p lower at 92.5p and a profits fall programmed Microgen, a computer concern, 31p down to 118.5p.

Formal, a clothing group flying high at 68p at Christmas, fell 4.5p to a 18p low. By its own admission it is in a "perilous financial position". It is floating through stockbroker Wise Spinks, its one successful operation, Blake Menswear. Other chunks of the group are being sold and Formal intends to concentrate on its Cupid brand manufacturing business. City whizzkid Hugh Osmond is a director.

Shares of Somerfield, the supermarket group with figures today, should be sold, says Paul Smiddy of Credit Lyonnais Laing. He says shareholders are "like those trainee astronauts in NASA's so called 'vomit comet' - enjoying a bout of weightlessness before profits go down". He expects £105m today, £109m this year and then £95m in 1999.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 percent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other shares: Ex rights x Ex-dividend x Ex at a United Securities Market's Suspended List. For further details see the FT Information.

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
BT	48,000	Norwich Union	32,000	Centrica	30,000	Grand Ind	30,000
British Rail	30,000	Woolwich	30,000	Lyons TSB	30,000	Halford	30,000
HSBC	30,000	Wentworth	30,000	Imperial Chemical	30,000	SAF Inc	30,000
British Air	30,000	BT	30,000	Volvo	30,000	Bank of Scotland	30,000
				General Elec	30,000	National Grid	30,000

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 4808.00 up 10.00	11.00 4832.00 up 36.00	14.00 4882.00 up 68.00
Low 4808.00 up 10.00	12.00 4858.00 up 50.00	15.00 4882.00 up 68.00
High 4808.00 up 10.00	13.00 4858.00 up 50.00	Close 4882.00 up 68.00

Telecommunications

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
BT	445.50	-7.00	British Telecom	183.00	+15.50
British Telecom	183.00	+15.50	Telecom Italia	18.00	-4.50
Telecom Italia	18.00	-4.50	Telecom France	18.00	-4.50

Utilities & Apparel

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
British Gas	18.00	-4.50	Next	18.00	-4.50
Next	18.00	-4.50	Debenhams	18.00	-4.50
Debenhams	18.00	-4.50	Primark	18.00	-4.50

Transport

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50
Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50	British Airways	18.00	-4.50
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50

Services

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50
Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50	British Airways	18.00	-4.50
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50
Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50	British Airways	18.00	-4.50
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50
Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50	British Airways	18.00	-4.50
British Airways	18.00	-4.50	Virgin Atlantic	18.00	-4.50

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Long

Medium

Short

Long

Medium

Short

Long

Medium

Short

Long

Welfare-to-work ignores women stuck at the bottom of the heap

There can be almost no doubt in the country who objects to the aims of Gordon Brown's welfare-to-work schemes and, in reality, very few people who think the Chancellor should not have found extra money to spend on getting the unemployed into work. Labour's approach is actually remarkably similar to a range of schemes introduced by the Tories, except that the new Government is being much tougher than its predecessor about withdrawing benefits from "shirkers".

There is, however, a swelling chorus of criticism of the details of the New Deal for the unemployed. This strikes various notes, but the key worry is highlighted by the recent "Employment Outlook" from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This annual bible for anybody who is interested in the jobs market points out the key problem: that we do not know enough about the detailed functioning - and malfunctioning - of the labour market to be able to design welfare-to-work policies with any real confidence.

It has a stab at looking at what needs doing in six member countries, including the UK. The issue that needs to be addressed is not just unemployment but also low pay. It is the need to improve working and living conditions for people stuck on the bottom rungs of the social ladder. Low pay and bad conditions are as serious an issue as joblessness. They are simply different facets of poverty and exclusion.

If it is the case that the same people are stuck in no jobs or bad jobs, and tend to be lumped with part-time or temporary work - in short, who bear all the brunt of making our economies flexible - the social consequences are bleak, as a new book on the dual nature of the labour market spells out. Gilles Saint-Paul says: "An important issue related to the discussion of labour market flows



Diane Coyle

Detailed analysis makes it clear that the Government has leapt to false assumptions about the UK's dual labour market and dual society

of those who were continuously in work during the five years grew most strongly in the UK. Both bits of evidence lie in with the general perception that inequality has increased more sharply in this country than most others in recent years.

The dual labour market does appear to create a barrier between the haves and have-nots

that is higher in this country than elsewhere.

In fact, in the case of all six countries, the report says: "Even though low pay is a transitory phenomenon for a majority of workers... a large share of the time spent in low-paid jobs is attributable to workers for whom [it] appears to be a chronic condition."

Most spells in badly paid jobs are short, but so are the escapes from them, and the same people cycle in and out of poverty. This would be even more true if the OECD's researchers had been able to take account of cycling between low pay and no pay, or unemployment. "The main message," the report concludes, "is that workers' prospects of moving up worsen the longer they have been low paid."

If, as all this evidence suggests, it is the same people who are caught in this cycle, who are they? For it is on them that Government efforts to alleviate poverty and inequality should be concentrated. The OECD offers some indications. It is, broadly speaking, women and those with few educational qualifications who get stuck at the bottom of the ladder. Like young people, they have a higher probability of being low paid in any year. Unlike the young, they are less likely to be upwardly mobile as time goes by.

In the UK, for example, 18 per cent of the panel of workers had pay in the bottom fifth of the income distribution at some point, 13 per cent were low paid

in 1986, and 5 per cent were low paid throughout the five years.

But the corresponding figures for women only were 36 per cent, 30 per cent and 12 per cent. Women are more than three times as likely as men to be low paid at some stage and six times more likely to be stuck at the bottom of the heap.

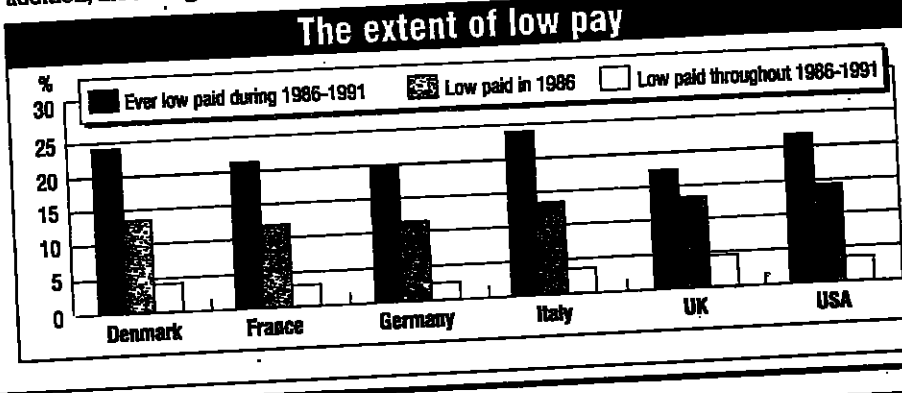
The relative vulnerability of women is even higher in Germany and Denmark, somewhat lower in France, Italy and the US. But the pattern is common. So is the position of the least educated workers, in those cases for which the information was available.

The Chancellor was swift to acclaim this year's OECD report as a vindication of Labour's emphasis on the lack of fairness and opportunity in the jobs market. He was right to point out that the organisation is now emphasising the social aspects of labour market policy, while sticking to its long-standing insistence on the need for deregulation and flexibility in order to create jobs.

However, the detailed analysis makes it clear that the Government has leapt to false assumptions about the UK's dual labour market and dual society. The faultline does not lie exactly where Mr Brown claims. His welfare-to-work scheme concentrates on the young, long-term unemployed. Clearly, providing all young people with a far better education and training, and not permitting them to leave the education system without qualifications, is essential.

But the OECD research suggests that a second focus should be on women rather than the young. With a mere £200m made available from the windfall tax for single mothers, the biggest single category of women in poverty, compared to £3.5bn for the young unemployed, this is obviously something the Chancellor has not thought about yet.

*Dual Labor Markets, Gilles Saint-Paul, MIT Press, April 1997.



It's goodbye then, said a UBS spokesperson



Rudi Mueller: UBS chairman

Lisa Spiro, the doyenne of investment banking PRs, left UBS last Friday after seven years as their chief spokesperson in order to set up her own business.

Ms Spiro was given a farewell dinner this Tuesday which was attended by three of her former bosses - Rudi Mueller, chairman of UBS, Alan Ogden, formerly of Hill & Knowlton and now with UBS, and Neil Collins, City editor of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Ms Spiro started off as a financial journalist in the 1970s, and since then she has worked for Salomon Brothers as well as UBS.

"It's been a wonderful time," she said yesterday, "taking time out from moving house. It's the first time I've been out of corporate life since 1978."

She is in the early stages of planning her own business, which will advise companies on areas such as social issues and corporate responsibility. It should be up and running by the end of November.

As for who would succeed her at UBS, she said Mr Ogden would continue with his present role, dealing with emerging markets, as would Simon Pincombe, who fields most press calls.

Mr Pincombe is, of course, a distinguished former author of this very column. So the status quo would be maintained for the moment, she said, but the bank might choose to do something different at the end of the year. (Go for it, Simon.)

Kevin Barker has stepped down as head of UK equities at Foreign & Colonial, to be replaced by John Wood, a former executive at Mercury Asset Management.

The change has been prompted by the promotion of Arab Banerji to the post of chief investment officer.

Mr Banerji, incidentally, is an eye surgeon who has turned to broking, and has been with F&C for four years.

F&C owns the biggest

"We have used horses at the brewery since my great-great-grandfather founded the business in 1831 and we still have 20 in our stables, mainly Shires but also Percherons, Suffolk Punches and Clydesdales. We are proud to be given this opportunity to pull the Lord Mayor's coach."

Perusing a list of "the best barristers at the Junior Bar" in the latest issue of *Legal Business*, the mag for City lawyers, I came upon one Joe Smouth, aged 34. The mag says he is "Triple A rated: assertive, aggressive, ambitious. He has personality to burn... very focused."

Cries, Young Joe, the mag adds, "is the kind of guy who at a turn up will have six other parties to go to. How tiring."

He has also had to steer well clear of working on BCCI, the crashed bank, since his father, Brian Smouth, a partner with accountants Deloitte & Touche, was until recently one of the main liquidators of the bank. BCCI was shut down by regulators six years ago after frauds worth over \$10bn were discovered.

Mr Smouth senior was particularly adept at negotiating with the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi and his representatives - the Sheikh owned 77 per cent of BCCI when it was shut, and played a key role in providing compensation to creditors.

There is one way in which young Joe has followed in his father's footsteps, however: he has acted for the bondholders in the Barings Bank collapse. Sorting out collapsed banks obviously runs in the family.

Bill Murphy, BT director of corporate clients, has resigned as a director of Display IT, the troubled on-line information company.

John Willcock

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Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5756	17.15	53.50	1000	32.91	39.89	
Canada	2.3010	71.66	209.20	1000	32.91	39.89	
Germany	1.9374	67.88	209.20	1000	32.91	39.89	
France	1.1724	340.32	920.80	1000	32.91	39.89	
Italy	2.0621	62.14	15.07	1000	32.91	39.89	
Spain	164.7	104.7	307.32	1000	32.91	39.89	
Japan	152.50	35.31	100.01	1000	32.91	39.89	
Belgium	62.297	21.5	58.31	1000	32.91	39.89	
Denmark	118.8	340.32	920.80	1000	32.91	39.89	
Netherlands	1.3671	105.98	318.30	1000	32.91	39.89	
Ireland	1.1452	104.7	307.32	1000	32.91	39.89	
Norway	2.5333	37.26	16.97	1000	32.91	39.89	
Sweden	1.3440	310.30	920.80	1000	32.91	39.89	
Australia	2.2792	8.3	30.20	1000	32.91	39.89	
Hong Kong	7.7564	9.5	30.20	1000	32.91	39.89	
Malaysia	3.7603	34.51	122.42	1000	32.91	39.89	
New Zealand	2.2476	2.5	2.14	1000	32.91	39.89	
Singapore	2.6243	37.33	125.17	1000	32.91	39.89	
South Africa	2.4292	42.44	153.41	1000	32.91	39.89	

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	6.75%	Germany	5.50%	US	5.50%
France	5.75%	Canada	5.00%	Japan	5.50%
Italy	6.25%	Spain	5.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Netherlands	5.50%	Denmark	5.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	Australia	5.50%	New Zealand	5.50%

Commodity Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Crude Oil	114.14	114.30	114.14	114.14
Natural Gas	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Gold	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Silver	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50

Industrial Metals

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Aluminum	1537.50	Copper	158.77
Steel	1420.00	Zinc	1420.00
Lead	2445.40	Nickel	1420.00

Precious Metals

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Gold	407.50	Silver	175.25
Palladium	175.25	Platinum	175.25

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	1.5756	Poland	1.5756
Australia	2.2792	Romania	1.5756
Canada	2.3010	Slovakia	1.5756
France	1.1724	Slovenia	1.5756
Germany	1.9374	Spain	1.5756
Italy	2.0621	Sweden	1.5756
Japan	152.50	Switzerland	1.5756
UK	6.75%	USA	1.5756

Money Market Rates

Instrument	Rate	Instrument	Rate
UK Sterling	6.75%	US Treasury	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	Canada	5.00%
France	5.75%	Japan	5.50%

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
FTSE 100	114.14	Natural Gas	1.14
Gold	382.50	Silver	16.50

Other Softs

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Cocoa	1032	Coffee	1032
Wheat	1032	Barley	1032
Maize	1032	Soybeans	1032

Financial Times Information

Service	Price	Service	Price
Financial Times	1.5756	Financial Times	1.5756
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NatWest Markets reorganisation could lead to sale

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

National Westminster is understood to have responded to growing pressure from institutional investors to do something about its underperforming investment banking arm by setting in train a radical reorganisation of NatWest Markets.

The revamp has been seen as a prelude to a possible disposal of the division, from which NatWest has failed to generate a satisfactory return.

The proposed changes are understood to centre on a slimming down of investment banking by taking NatWest Markets' corporate lending and treasury functions back into the commercial bank. Although NatWest refused to confirm the changes, details are expected to be announced when the bank unveils interim results at the beginning of next month.

Any reduction in the scope of NatWest Markets' activities will be seen as a reversal of the global strategy outlined when the business was formed in 1992.

Opinion was divided in the City yesterday as to whether the move signalled the end of NatWest Markets or was simply a case of the bank buying time to put its house in order.

Richard Coleman, banking

analyst at Merrill Lynch, thought it extremely unlikely that NatWest would perform such a dramatic volte-face as selling the business. But John Leonard, at Salomon Brothers, said: "To the extent that it increases their options for what to do with the business in the future, the changes are not just cosmetic."

Derek Wanless, who took over as chief executive of NatWest Markets after the resignation of Martin Owen, is understood to be in favour of the changes, which would see activities such as foreign exchange and money-market dealing return to the bank.

The advantage to NatWest of such a move would be to reduce the capital tied up in NatWest Markets so that the underperformance of the remaining corporate, finance and equities operations would seem less important in group terms.

Separately, NatWest Markets yesterday announced the appointment of Tom Lundie as chief financial officer. He is currently head of finance at the treasury and capital markets division of HSBC. At NatWest he will report directly to group finance director Richard Delbridge and Mr Wanless.

The appointment was seen by analysts as a long overdue focus on the financial returns

from investment banking. According to Mr Coleman, the bank had been managed for too long "with its eyes on the strategy statement and not on whether or not it was actually making any profits".

NatWest has scaled down its large corporate lending involvement due to the tiny margins on such business but analysts said the bank would have to weigh the effect of its actions on its client relationships. Many analysts think the link between lending to large corporates and getting access to higher margin corporate advisory and finance business can be exaggerated.

Analysts say the proposals, if carried out, would be largely cosmetic in the near term. They would free up capital and would just transfer profit streams from one business to the other.

Mr Wanless is consulting the global heads of the investment bank's divisions and is expected to make his recommendations to the NatWest Group board in the next few weeks.

The bank is expected to make at least a progress report when it publishes its first-half results on 5 August.

The review was announced in the wake of a £90m loss in derivatives trading which led to the departure of Mr Owen.



Derek Wanless: Consulting the global heads of the investment bank's divisions

IN BRIEF

Nigel Wray to buy stake in Domino Pizza

Nigel Wray, the chairman of the Burford and Trocadero property groups, is to buy up to 20 per cent of Domino's Pizza Group from International Franchise Systems (IFS). IFS previously owned 100 per cent of Domino's, which is the UK master franchisee of the Domino brand. Mr Wray and investors have paid £1.5m for a 15 per cent stake in the business with an option to acquire an additional 5 per cent for approximately £875,000. Mr Wray, who backed the takeover of Nottingham Forest football club earlier this year, said he appreciates "the strong potential of Domino's Pizza in the UK and its tremendous success so far". IFS said the deal would help finance Domino's rapid growth, which includes a total of 250 UK stores within the next three years.

Siebel opts for FID as final payout

Siebel is to pay its final dividend as a foreign income dividend to save up to £12.4m in Advance Corporation Tax. The payout to shareholders is 9.8p per share for the year to 5 April. As Advance Corporation Tax (ACT) on a FID can be recovered by the company, payment of the final dividend in this way would result in a future cash saving of up to £12.4m, Siebel said. In the longer term, it will reduce exposure to the risk that ACT may require to be written off to the profit and loss account, the company added.

PowerGen chairman exercises options

Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, has made a gain of over £265,000 from the exercise of share options. Mr Wallis exercised options over 46,000 ordinary shares of the company at an option price of 196p a share. He sold the holding immediately at a price of 773p. The net gain was £265,420.

Piasmon shares dive on profits warning

Shares in Piasmon, the electrical equipment group, lost 48 per cent of their value yesterday when the company issued a profits warning. It said it expects to report a significant loss in the first half to September following first-quarter sales below expectations and down 4 per cent year-on-year. Piasmon blamed weak markets and the strength of sterling but said it expects to see an improvement in trading in the second half. The company made a profit of £400,000 last year. The shares fell 86.5p to 92.5p.

Euromoney buys US magazines group

Euromoney, the publisher and conference organiser, made its biggest acquisition to date with the purchase of the US financial magazines group, Institutional Investor for \$142m (£84m). Euromoney had originally pulled out of the race, saying the \$200m asking price was too high. However, when other potential buyers also pulled out it was asked to re-submit a bid and entered the final stages of negotiation within the last week. The deal will be financed by a \$150m (£89m) medium-term bank facility, provided by the HSBC group. Institutional Investor is owned by ABC, an indirect subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company.

Millwall's rescue issue gets 56% take-up

Millwall Holdings, owner of the second division football club, has received a 56 per cent take-up for its rescue £3.4m rights issue. Of the balance of 158 million new ordinary shares not subscribed by qualifying shareholders, 114 million have been placed at 1p per share with the Townsley & Co, the stockbroker which underwrote the issue. Around 44 million shares have been taken up by sub-underwriters of Apex Partners, the venture capital group. The two-for-one rights issue is part of a £10m financing for Millwall. The club is raising £6m by the placing of 640 million new shares at 1p.

Eurotunnel shareholders call for inquiry

The association of Eurotunnel shareholders (AEE) has called on the Paris bourse commission to open an investigation following a sharp drop in the company's share price on Friday and Tuesday. A letter from the AEE pointed out that Eurotunnel shares had lost 30 per cent over those two days.

Insurance companies report record investments

Clifford Gorman

Investors are buying pensions, PEPs and investment products in record amounts, according to the latest new business figures from Prudential and Legal & General yesterday.

Sales surged for the second year running, reflecting the continuing recovery in investor confidence which is also driving the housing market.

L&G's Election PEP, launched just before the general election in May, brought in £207m and exceeded all expectations. David Prosser, chief executive, said yesterday: "It was

mainly responsible for increasing sales of PEPs and unit trusts from £1.74m to £4.43m in the first six months of the year.

A new, improved life bond would be launched shortly to try and maintain the momentum of sales in the second half of the year, Mr Prosser said.

Premium income from L&G's insurance-linked products rose 49 per cent to £140m, new pension business from regular savings was 27 per cent higher than in the previous year and unit-trust business, which tends to be more cyclical, grew by 91 per cent. Income from company pen-

sion schemes was down slightly but this was almost exactly explained by a single annual contract worth £148m in 1996.

Even mortgage-related business grew, but by a more modest 9 per cent, while the amount of new pension money under management rose by 14 per cent to £2.28bn, benefiting from the success of L&G's use of funds which track the FTSE index.

Prudential's group chief executive, Sir Peter Davis, who personifies the revamped Man from the Pru in the group's media advertising programme launched in February, announced a strong rise in busi-

ness for the first half of the year. Prudential's star product in the UK was once again its with-profits single-premium Prudence Bond, which brought in £539m, an increase of 47 per cent on the first half of last year. Single-premium business in the UK rose by 15 per cent to £1.8bn, including a 12 per cent rise in pension business and a 29 per cent rise in life business, while PEP sales doubled to £141m. Regular-premium business also grew by 15 per cent to £182m.

Prudential's direct sales force grew sales of single-premium business by 12 per cent and regular-premium business by 15 per

cent and doubled sales of investment products. Sales through independent financial advisers recorded a rise of 18 per cent in single-premium and 19 per cent in the small amount of regular-premium business. Britannia Assurance reported levels of new business roughly similar to 1996, in spite of the restructuring of the sales force and the closure of 60 branches at the beginning of May. Scottish Equitable reported a 42 per cent rise in new regular-premium incomes and a 5 per cent fall in single-premium business from last year's record levels.

Forbes to buy Nelson for £84m

Cathy Newman

David Woodward, chairman of Nelson Hurst, stands to pocket almost £3m after Forbes Group, a South African risk management company, yesterday launched an agreed £84m takeover bid for the insurance brokers.

Mr Woodward's 1.6 million shares in Nelson, equal to a 3.4 per cent stake, are valued at £2.88m by Forbes' 185p bid price - a 43 per cent premium to Tuesday's closing price of 129.5p. Shares in Nelson closed 50p higher yesterday at 179.5p. The directors together own 11.2 per cent of the company. Louis Erhard, one of the directors, will bank £1.8m from the deal, and John Percy-Davis, chief executive, will gain in excess of £550,000.

The windfall for the directors comes just four months after they said they would forfeit their bonuses because they had underperformed in the previous year.

Forbes, which provides risk management, insurance and employee benefit services, said yesterday that it had bought Nelson to strengthen its position in Asia and Latin America.

Nelson's network is particularly strong in the emerging markets in Asia.

Paul Heinsmann, Forbes' group managing director, said the new company would be "well positioned to become a leading operator in the short term in risk management markets in developing countries and to become one of the leading mid-sized international insurance brokers with a clear focus on emerging markets".

Nelson said last night the deal made sense as the two companies had a history of joint ventures and Forbes already owned 9.9 per cent of the UK company.

The deal comes at a time of continuing consolidation for the industry. In the past year, the world's six largest insurance brokers have been reduced to four.

Nelson, which reported a 25 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £3.9m in March this year, has offices in 20 countries and around 1,500 employees. Mr Woodward and Mr Percy-Davis will continue to hold their present positions at the company for at least three years.

Company Results				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alfred Tait (T)	118.2m (108.8m)	9.55m (8.4m)	5.6p (5.1p)	2.75p (2.5p)
Anglo (A)	81.1m (258m)	28.3m (25.4m)	36.19p (32.69p)	14.52p
ATA (A)	1.3m (1.3m)	0.03m (0.12m)	7.7p (10.1p)	nil (-)
First Technology (F)	50.5m (58.8m)	9.23m (7.28m)	38.1p (30.07p)	10.2p (8.5p)
Fife Holdings (F)	41.8m (20.3m)	1.72m (1.84m)	2.17p (2.79p)	0.25p
Heath (H)	159m (128m)	45.8m (33.9m)	8.6p (7.2p)	1.5p (1.65p)
Merriman (M)	34.1m (38.3m)	4.21m (4.88m)	8.9p (9p)	2.4p (2.4p)
Pemberton (P)	1.4m (1.4m)	-0.16m (-0.33m)	-0.5p (-1.7p)	nil (-)
David & Smith (S)	1.18m (1.23m)	98.0m (125m)	22.1p (30.3p)	8p (7.5p)
Acute Group (G)	183m (263m)	-50.4m (-18.3m)	-21.2p (-4.3p)	nil
AM Group (G)	74.0m (67.3m)	5.57m (8.82m)	30.7p (29.3p)	9.0p (8.5p)
Asian Vite (V)	22.1m (16.9m)	-3.9m (0.5m)	-26.3p (0.5p)	nil (-)
Blair (B)	7.84m (8.34m)	0.61m (0.38m)	5.3p (2.2p)	1.2p (0.3p)
Lee Business Group (P)	15.5m (5.59m)	2.22m (0.38m)	3.13p (0.97p)	0.65p (-)
Maynard Appliances (A)	203m (197m)	-11.4m (15.8m)	-29.3p (23.6p)	3.25p (10.0p)
United Diagnostic (U)	5.75m (5.83m)	-7.08m (0.28m)	-7.08p (1.48p)	nil (-)
Talbot (T)	60.5m (48.0m)	8.94m (5.57m)	27.3p (23.42p)	10p (7.7p)
VWF Holdings (V)	35.5m (34.8m)	0.58m (2.61m)	0.7p (5.3p)	1p (2.25p)
Zenith Holdings (Z)	10.4m (8.48m)	0.78m (4.23m)	3.4p (5.1p)	nil (-)
Ashted Group (G)	147m (95.5m)	28.2m (16.9m)	14p (13p)	3.85p (-)
Crabb & Gray (I)	194m (80.8m)	5.21m (1.74m)	5.42p (3.88p)	3.7p (-)
Crabb & Howard (H)	645m (584m)	29.5m (25.8m)	22.7p (28p)	10p (8.2p)
London (L)	52.8m (16.0m)	0.69 (0.63m)	1.15p (7.1p)	2.5p (2.5p)
Parsons Holdings (P)	30.7m (27.0m)	2.00m (1.18m)	33.4p (14.8p)	nil (-)
Premier Land (L)	5.98m (5.00m)	-1.93m (-1.08m)	-32.2p (-2.7p)	nil (-)
(F) - First (V) - Vite (H) - Heath (M) - Merriman (P) - Pemberton (S) - Smith (G) - Acute (AM) - Asian (B) - Blair (L) - Lee (A) - Maynard (U) - United (T) - Talbot (V) - VWF (Z) - Zenith (Ashted) (Crabb & Gray) (Crabb & Howard) (London) (Parsons) (Premier Land)				

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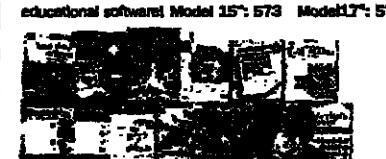
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CRICKET: England all-rounder steadies Kent nerve as Surrey and Lancashire batsmen reap rich harvest in County Championship

Ealham launches rescue operation

DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Canterbury
Kent 356-7 v Leicestershire

If the blueprint that Lord MacLaurin is about to propose for the English game includes the invention of Aussie style monikers for county sides, then Kent should be known as the Eastern Escapologists. Failed, not for the first time this season, by their early order, the tail once again turned round an unpromising 126 for 5 to finish the day on 356 for 7, a recovery

every Houdini himself would have been proud to have performed. On this occasion, it was Mark Ealham who orchestrated the fightback with an unbeaten 96 which took five hours and combined stoic belligerence with bold strokeplay. It is a combination that so epitomises the Kentish way it is difficult to believe he was on the verge of moving counties a few years ago. With Ealham having already spent nine overs in the nineties, it is clear that Kent, having won the toss, will continue batting today. They clearly believe this pitch will turn and their batting

towards the end of the day betrayed their goal of getting as many runs as they can before the surface starts to grip. It was by no means a solo effort, however, and Ealham's stirring work was matched for the most part by Paul Strang, whose 82 was his highest score for Kent. The Zimbabwean, more used to featuring in headlines praising his bowling - "Strang up by the Googlies" is one such possibility if this pitch turns as much as Kent hope it will - is certainly no mug with the willow and he nudged and squirmed Leicestershire's now lukewarm attack to distraction. More importantly for Kent, he helped Ealham to add 145 for the seventh wicket and the body blow that rendered Leicestershire's morning bonanza superfluous. Interestingly, it was only Kent's fourth hundred partnership of the season, a tally that has been scored exclusively by their seventh wicket and lower. Like an Afghan hound with a bouffant, it is sometimes difficult to tell which way round this Kent side are.

Exquisite Stewart caught napping

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Guildford
Surrey 457-9 v Hampshire

The mood was there, so was the Benson and Hedges Cup won at the weekend, the only thing missing was a Surrey century. They did everything else pretty well, including batting first on a benign Guildford wicket, which revealed a rich seam of runs to be mined and an outfield cropped close, thus helping to speed the ball on its way to the modest boundaries.

Alec Stewart got closest, the roof caving in on him when he was a tantalising two runs away from what would have been his 41st first-class hundred. He fell to a catch behind by Adrian Aymes, the quality of which was worthy of the England wicket-keeper's innings. The timing and placement of Stewart's 15 boundaries were exquisite and effortless. If he played and missed early on, there was not a false stroke once he had got under way. His abrupt departure not long after lunch was soon followed by that of his England colleague and brother-in-law, Mark Butcher.

11, was beginning to excel, but the hundred that was there for the taking passed him by as well. At least by then he had turned in his best batting performance for Surrey this summer.

Adam Hollis, the captain, emerged to have a dart. Having decided to part with his manager, Gareth James, prior to his innings, he quickly showed that he had also shed the baggage of poor form that has dogged him in the first-class game.

A collection of boundaries enlivened the afternoon session; he managed to make his highest score for Surrey, but he too was fated not to reach three figures.

His younger brother, Ben, has been Surrey's man of the moment, and that was just about as long as he lasted, but hopes were raised by Graham Thorpe. He, too, reached the glass ceiling of a season's best in the Championship, then perished. By the time Chris Lewis, 66 not out - his first time past 50 this summer - and the teenage fast bowler, Alex Tudor, had unleashed a flurry of savage shots to brighten the evening the maximum four batting bonus points were safely in the bag - only the third time they have managed that this year.



Kent's Trevor Ward is caught and bowled by off-spinner Adrian Pierson, of Leicestershire, on the first day of the Photograph: Peter Jay

Ponting flays Glamorgan

Australia 369-4 dec
Glamorgan 30-0

Ricky Ponting hit his first century of the tour to enhance his claims for the troublesome No 6 spot in the Australian Test side as Mark Taylor's men put a threadbare Glamorgan attack to the sword in Cardiff yesterday. The 22-year-old was unbeaten on 126 when Taylor declared Australia's first innings, leaving the Championship leaders an awkward eight overs to face before the close, but Steve James and Hugh Morris comfortably survived the efforts of Paul Rieffel and Mike Kasprovic. Justin Langer, one of Ponting's competitors for a Test place, hit 50 not out as he and Ponting shared an unfinished fifth-wicket partnership of 123 in 27 overs.

Crawley and Fairbrother make Sussex suffer

HENRY BLOFIELD
reports from Old Trafford
Lancashire 380-5 v Sussex

On days like these it must seem a long season for Sussex. After putting Lancashire into bat, they took two good wickets before Crawley at slip before he had scored. Crawley and Neil Fairbrother then showed them the error of their ways, putting on 243 for the third wicket in 58 overs. In the morning, the ball swung under the cloud and on a damp, slow pitch moved off the seam. Many bowlers would have given a lot to use it first and a decent seam attack would have had Lancashire in all sorts of trouble. The only two points in Sussex's favour at the moment is that they are three from the bottom of the Championship table and with Derbyshire in their present benevolent form, must have an

excellent chance of avoiding the bottom. Also, of course, they reached the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy when they beat Lancashire at Hove which will have sent them here in good heart.

Their bowling at the start was poor and grew progressively worse, no matter the colour of the cloud through which one viewed proceedings. Paul Jarvis and Vaseb Drakes bowled too short and too wide at the start and often the wrong line too. It seems strange that yesterday morning Sussex should have had more bowling bonus points than any other county. Mark Robinson bowled Jason Gallian with a beauty which pitched on middle and hit off and Mike Atherton, who was in fine form, was lured to James Kirtley to one which cut back into him. On another day he might have played forward. Just before Atherton was out, Crawley went back to force Robinson through

the offside and was dropped by Keith Greenfield at first slip, two-handed to his right.

Then Crawley and Fairbrother set about making Sussex suffer. Crawley's stroke play was a delight as he drove and flicked the ball away off his pads. He is always so elegant; it is only his temperament that may still hold him back. Fairbrother also played some lovely strokes as he went easily to his first hundred of the season. Like Crawley, he would not doubt have said that the Sussex bowling, from lunchtime onwards, made it easier for him. The control of all the bowlers was not good, making it so difficult to set a field. Eventually, Crawley played a loose drive and was caught behind having faced 199 balls and hit 15 fours. Fairbrother's innings came to an end when he square cut Kirtley to cover after facing 196 balls and hitting 14 fours.

Franks' hat-trick makes history

Round-up

Paul Franks became the youngest bowler in Nottinghamshire's history to claim a hat-trick on the opening day of their Championship match against Warwickshire at Trent Bridge yesterday.

The 18-year-old all-rounder, named in the England Under-19 squad yesterday, celebrated with his county's first hat-trick since Richard Hadlee claimed one against Kent in 1987. His victims were Trevor Penny, caught behind, and Dougie Brown and Graham Welch who were both bowled off their pads.

That took Warwickshire from 225 for 3 to 225 for 6, but half-centuries by David Hemp and Dominic Ostler helped them reach 328 for 9 by the close.

Darren Gough took four wickets for Yorkshire as Durham were bowled out for 152 at Scarborough. Durham's former captain Mike Roseberry took a blow on the helmet when on four as he ducked into a short ball from Craig White and retired suffering from double vision one run later.

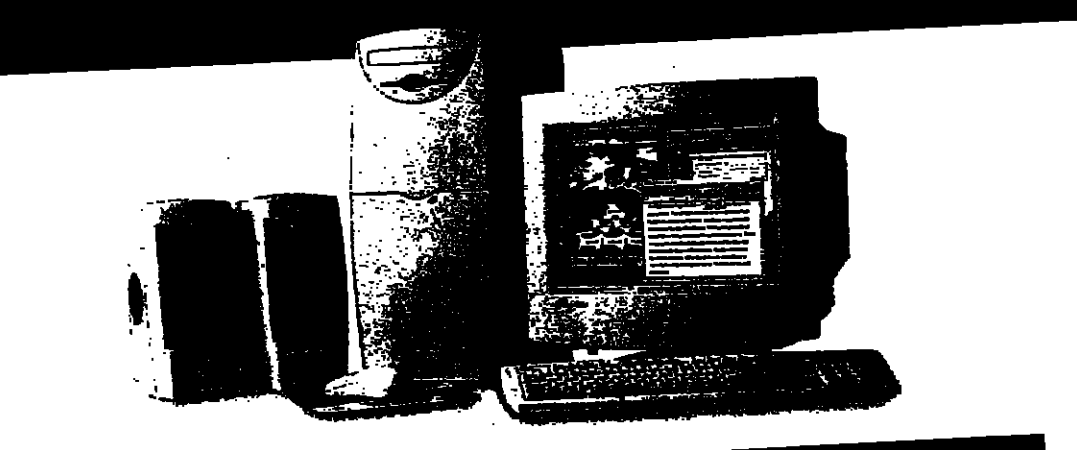
When he resumed at 122 for 6 he was caught behind first ball from a thin edge off Peter Hartley. Roseberry stood his ground for a long time, staring down the pitch at umpire George Sharp and his behaviour left Sharp and his colleague John Harris with no option but to report him to Lord's for dissent. Yorkshire in reply were 137 for 2.

The Tasmanian Shaun Young hit his first century for Gloucestershire on another bad day for tershire on another bad day for Derbyshire. It began when the England hopeful Mike Smith snapped up six wickets with his left-arm inswingers to bowl Derbyshire out for 120.

After Derbyshire's disastrous start at the Cheltenham Festival, Young then outscored them by himself. Taking runs all round the wicket he was still there at the close, seeing Gloucestershire to 306 for 4. Young was on 156.

Northamptonshire's David Roberts scored his maiden first class century at home to Essex in only his fifth Championship game. The hosts subsided to the wiles of Paul Grayson (4 for 53) once Roberts were out for 117 but a spirited unbeaten last-wicket stand between David Ripley and Scott Boswell took them to 354 for 9 by the close.

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CRICKET SCOREBOARD	
Britannic Assurance County Championship (First day of four)	
Gloucestershire v Derbyshire Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire (7pts), with six first-innings wickets standing, are 288 runs ahead of Derbyshire (0). Today: 11.0.	
Derbyshire won toss	
DERBYSHIRE - First Innings	
A S Rolles lbw b Smith	5
M R May c Russell b Smith	5
C J Adams b Smith	0
N J Barnett c Russell b Lewis	58
M J Vandaele not out	9
V P Clarke c Young b Smith	9
Y K M Kiddle c Bell b Young	0
*P A J DeFreitas c Russell b Smith	0
A J Jones c Russell b Smith	0
K J Duggan c Russell b Smith	16
D E Malcolm not out	15
Extras (b7 w1 nb1)	13
Total (28 overs)	120
Gloucestershire: 12-1-19-1-43-5-45-6-74-7	
Derbyshire: 12-1-19-1-43-5-45-6-74-7	
Gloucestershire - First Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire v Gloucestershire	
Derbyshire: 1-1-2-3-18-4-155-5-224-6	
Gloucestershire: 1-1-2-3-18-4-155-5-224-6	
Derbyshire - First Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Second Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Third Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Fourth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Fifth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Sixth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Seventh Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Eighth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Ninth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Tenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Eleventh Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twelfth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Thirteenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Fourteenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Fifteenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Sixteenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Seventeenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Eighteenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Nineteenth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twentieth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-first Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-second Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-third Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-fourth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-fifth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-sixth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-seventh Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-eighth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Twenty-ninth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Thirtieth Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156
S Young not out	33
*M W Alwyn not out	23
Extras (b4 w1 nb1)	306
Total (for 4, 24 overs)	306
Derbyshire - Thirty-first Innings	
A J Wright c Adams b Malcolm	2
N J Tarrant c Kiddle b Malcolm	0
T H C Hancock c Rolles b DeFreitas	54
M A Lynch c Rolles b Malcolm	156

No player will set out with less confidence than Baker-Finch. Nightmares rise up before him. It's more than slump, it's free fall

To paraphrase a lyric that was up there for a while, what goes on in Ian Baker-Finch's mind, what are the thoughts that surround him? The Open champion at Birkdale in 1991, it is an event these days if his ball lands on the fairway.

The Australian's ongoing anguish highlights an aspect of golf that people fail frequently to appreciate. Technical flaws are less damaging than mental disturbance. A player can look great in rehearsal but then give a very poor performance.

Baker-Finch is not alone in this but no player will set out over the links of Royal Troon with less confidence. Nightmares rise up before him. It's more than slump, it's free fall. In the Open at St Andrews two

years ago Baker-Finch began by hooking wide of a fairway wide enough to accommodate a fleet of buses. At Lytham last year his ball ended up in a champagne tent.

For quite a while Baker-Finch has given the impression that he could not be absolutely sure of hitting the ball with a bang. There must have been plenty of times when he wished that golf had not been invented.

Golf can be that sort of game but it is usually the putting stroke that deserts them; fine from tee to green but the damn ball won't drop. If Baker-Finch had just that to worry about he would probably go around happy. There is still a smile on his face but it does not tell everything about him.

For example, it took courage to play in the Open, in fact, just to go out in a tournament because the gift is still missing. "If I knew why it wouldn't have gone," he said yesterday. "There isn't one specific thing, not an injury, one bad swing fault. It's not like my big toe got chopped off or anything like that."

"No, I'm just fighting my way through it, working hard, and maybe I'll come back and defend at Birkdale next year."

It is pretty obvious from those words that Baker-Finch will not be setting off today with great expectations. Making the cut would be a triumph. Apart from a few minor events in Australia he has not played since last year's Open. "I was



KEN JONES
at the Open

allowed to take a year off the US Tour and my plan is to play in some of the Australian tournaments," he said.

Plenty of golfers have been down the lonely road, none more agonisingly than Bill Rogers whose career collapsed following his victory in the 1981 Open Championship at Sandwich. Sensing that the gift had gone for good Rogers is now a club professional.

Does the Open carry a curse for some of its winners? Rogers, Baker-Finch and Mark Calzaghe, who has only won twice on the US Tour since winning at Troon in 1989. It isn't something Baker-Finch cares to think about. "You just don't know," he said. "You've got it one day, then it's gone. But for the last three or four months I've been working on my game with Gary Edwin and I think it's turning around. I see a lot of good changes, and my swing is very much different. It's

more like it was six or seven years ago."

That's the easy part. The hard part is convincing himself that he can compete again. Baker-Finch has received plenty of support and more advice than most players get in a lifetime. He admits to mental torment. "Keeping your head up helps you to handle it well, but it doesn't improve your game. I've simply got to trust myself and things that used to work for me. I love the game. I love playing. I don't want to do anything else. But it's up to me. Nobody else can get me back on track."

After a practice round yesterday Baker-Finch's back was hurting. He can take pills for that but there is no relief for what goes on in his

mind. He doesn't know whether the ball will go straight today or into the next county. Asked if he had any advice for Tiger Woods, he said: "I wish Tiger would give me some."

Baker-Finch would like us to remember that he played well in the 1994 Open, finishing 11th. "Actually it should have been better. I just didn't play well over the last few holes. But that's the last time I remembered a golf professional. It's been hideous but I've never thought about giving up."

It isn't sympathy Baker-Finch wants, just a sign that his swing is working again. Straight down the middle from the first tee would do but the way things are it would be wise to take cover.

Desbiens wins after protest

Cycling
ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

Laurent Desbiens, third choice for a Tour de France ride, yesterday became a second choice for victory as the Tour fled the Pyrenees for the Mediterranean coast.

As he fought out the finishing sprint with the Ukrainian Sergei Outchakov and the Italian Carlo Finco, the Frenchman's path was suddenly blocked by Outchakov. He finished first with an exultant show of raised arms, while Desbiens' right arm shot up in protest. Officials sided with Desbiens, leaving his rival to claim: "My advantage was good. He had room to come past."

Desbiens took the bouquet for his biggest victory in his third Tour for which he was not a candidate until two weeks before it began. "I knew I could do

something in this Tour," the Cofidis rider said. "Because there was no pressure on my shoulders."

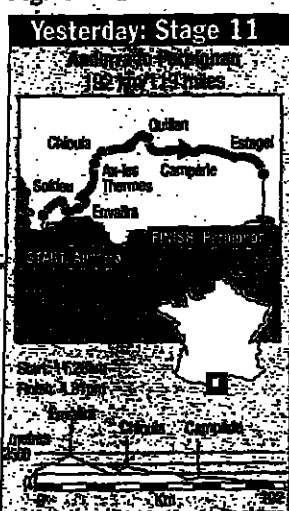
As is the custom with many riders Desbiens dedicated his victory, this time honouring team-mate Tony Rominger, who broke his collarbone last week.

Britain's casualty, Chris Boardman grunted his teeth over Port d'Envalira and two other lesser mountains. He is taking pain-killing tablets for his neck injury as well as acupuncture and physiotherapy. He plans to continue when the race resumes after today's rest day in St Etienne.

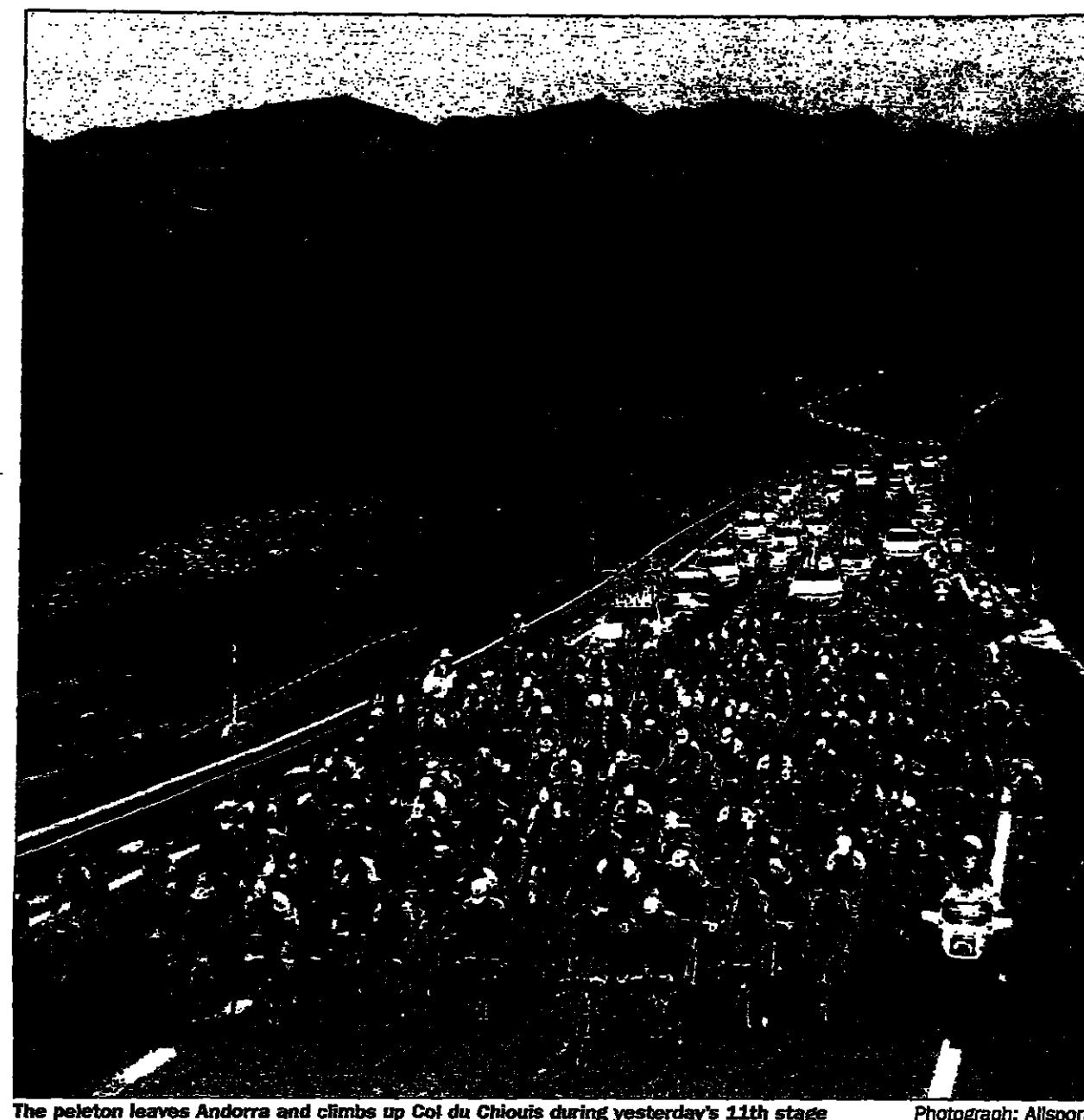
Boardman was 18 seconds behind the sparring trio who had escaped 15km from the finish, and so too was the race leader Jan Ullrich and 134 other riders. The German is expected to extend his 2min 38 sec advantage over the Frenchman Richard Virenque in Friday's mountain time trial.

Virenque has his limitations in sprints. He prefers his roads sloping and yesterday piled 50 more points on to his lead in the mountains category. He is 74 points clear of FES team-mate Laurent Brochard, with the Alps looming on Saturday.

Support among the sweating thousands on the route to Perpignan was split between Virenque and Bjørn Riis. Danish flags were painted on the road and hung across the route. The French however found a novel way of saluting their hero — eight fans stripped to the waist, each bearing a letter of the rider's name on his torso. All were covered in large spots, the colours of the king of the mountains.



Yesterday: Stage 11



The peloton leaves Andorra and climbs up Col du Chiouis during yesterday's 11th stage

Photograph: Allsport

The crowds were not so numerous in the years when Anton Magne won his Tours, but they still had their heroes. Rene Vietto, a waiter from the Cote d'Azur, twice answered the call to save Magne in the 1934 race.

On the road to Perpignan he gave his wheel to replace one Magne had smashed. The next day, Vietto was leading the race when he was told that Magne was again in trouble with

a broken chain and a damaged wheel. He turned back to ride towards his pursuers, and on finding his stranded team leader gave Magne his bike. Magne won the Tour, but Vietto won the hearts of the French. He was acclaimed as the moral winner of that Tour.

Ullrich does not face such threats to his jersey. Team cars are just a radio call away from any rider in trouble.

TOUR DE FRANCE 11th stage (192km, 11h 45m): 1. Desbiens (F) 2. Outchakov (U) 3. Finco (I) 4. Desbiens (F) 5. Outchakov (U) 6. Finco (I) 7. Desbiens (F) 8. Outchakov (U) 9. Finco (I) 10. Desbiens (F) 11. Outchakov (U) 12. Finco (I) 13. Desbiens (F) 14. Outchakov (U) 15. Finco (I) 16. Desbiens (F) 17. Outchakov (U) 18. Finco (I) 19. Desbiens (F) 20. Outchakov (U) 21. Finco (I) 22. Desbiens (F) 23. Outchakov (U) 24. Finco (I) 25. Desbiens (F) 26. Outchakov (U) 27. Finco (I) 28. Desbiens (F) 29. Outchakov (U) 30. Finco (I) 31. Desbiens (F) 32. Outchakov (U) 33. Finco (I) 34. Desbiens (F) 35. Outchakov (U) 36. Finco (I) 37. Desbiens (F) 38. Outchakov (U) 39. Finco (I) 40. Desbiens (F) 41. Outchakov (U) 42. Finco (I) 43. Desbiens (F) 44. Outchakov (U) 45. Finco (I) 46. Desbiens (F) 47. Outchakov (U) 48. Finco (I) 49. Desbiens (F) 50. Outchakov (U) 51. Finco (I) 52. Desbiens (F) 53. Outchakov (U) 54. Finco (I) 55. Desbiens (F) 56. Outchakov (U) 57. Finco (I) 58. Desbiens (F) 59. 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